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20 June 1985

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA, CHILE PROPOSE MEASURES TO FACILITATE INTEGRATION

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 May 85 pp C-1, C-2

[Article by Francisco Eterovic]

[Text] Punta Arenas--In a joint declaration at the end of their first official contact yesterday, officials of the southern tip of Chile and Argentina showed their satisfaction with the "marked improvement in the dialogue between Chile and Argentina," especially in the southern zone.

In the text, Maj Gen Luis Danus, mayor of Magallanes, and the governor of the Argentine Tierra del Fuego, Adolfo Sciurano, announced the achievements so far and recommendations to improve integration in the area.

Both officials agreed to invite Pope John Paul II specifically to Patagonia. Danus said that the ideal thing would be to use that visit to erect a monument in the southern zone. This might be a cross "to show future generations and the world how two peoples understood each other."

Sciurano praised the mayor's initiative to invite His Holiness to the far south "so that this could be the place where integration was sealed. I feel we have to have contacts with Buenos Aires and Santiago to achieve this."

Conclusions of the Meeting

In the communique, the top officials in the southern zone expressed their satisfaction with achievements so far. These included the establishment of maritime passenger transportation between Ushuaia and Puerto Williams and air transportation between Rio Grande and Punta Arenas. They pointed out the need to expand these connections through increased tourist traffic.

There was also mutual interest in maintaining the international route that connects San Sebastian and Monte Aymond through Chilean territory under the best conditions possible in order to facilitate passenger traffic and freight from national territory in Tierra del Fuego to northern Argentina and vice versa.

They recommended the formation of a border committee in Tierra del Fuego as soon as possible to look for appropriate ways to expedite border passage.

They also expressed their desire for the commission responsible for the study of the development, preservation and management of shared water resources to consider the possibilities for regional integraiton that can be generated on the island of Tierra del Fuego where there are three shared lake basins.

Finally, they expressed their approval of the agreement to study the situation of border connections to achieve expeditious telephone communications. They recommended improving the technical conditions of the Rio Grande-Puerto Williams connection and adapting a system between Rio Grande and Punta Arenas.

The agreements will be sent to the foreign ministries of both countries.

Southern Common Market

On Friday, governor Adolfo Sciurano announced his initiative to create "a common market in the southern zone."

In his opinion, a system similar to the EEC could be set up between Tierra del Fuego and Navarino so that the only thing needed to cross the border between the two countries would be a certain document.

As to migration of Chileans to Argentina, he said that those who traveled to the trans-Andean province to live must have a guaranteed job.

He reported that about 12,000 Chileans are now in that zone, especially in Rio Grande, and that 5 percent of them must update their documents.

Danus stated that he will soon visit Tierra del Fuego. He also received an invitation to go to Comodoro Rivadavia at the end of May.

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CSO: 3348/688

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA, CHILE DISCUSS TEXTILES, WOOD, USE OF PORTS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 May 85 pp A-1, C-2

[Article by Jorge Cabezas, special correspondent]

[Text] Mendoza--Some conclusions of the business meeting that ends today were announced yesterday. They included: important contacts to reactivate the idle capacity of the textile industries in Chile and Argentina; the beginning of talks to eliminate the recent restrictions on Chilean wood exports to trans-Andean territory and obvious interest in using the ports of San Antonio and Valparaiso to ship products from this area to markets in the Pacific.

According to officials of INTAL [Institute for the Integration of Latin America], the organizing entity, 500 representatives of 400 Chilean and Argentine enterprises met for work sessions and business talks after a decade when contacts were few and far between.

Ricardo Campero, the Argentine secretary of foreign trade and the top foreign trade official after the minister of economy, will come from Buenos Aires for the closing to be held at the Centro de Prensa, Congresos y Exposiciones in this border city.

Enthusiasm of the Textile Sector

The Chilean textile delegation with 20 representatives is the largest group among the 100 national businessmen who went to Mendoza.

In the opinion of the president of the Chilean Textile Institute, Marcelo Zalacuett, "the meeting has had extraordinary results. At the end of 10 years with no contact with Argentine industrialists, we have discovered several means for complementary and mutual trade of our products."

Chilean products that could be placed on the trans-Andean market include: rayon fibers, mixed fiber and flax and linen and polyester thread. With the idea of mutual trade, the Chilean industrialists are interested in acquiring raw cotton, acetate thread, acrylic fiber and mercerized cotton from Argentina.

The Chilean leader said that the trade would consist mainly of those products that are not manufactured in the other country or are in short supply and must be imported.

Marcelo Zalaquett stated that the Chilean textile sector has demonstrated a recovery. He expressed his hope that the idle installed capacity of the industries in the area, between 35 and 40 percent, can be put to work through these new bilateral relations. He explained: "That would also mean creating new jobs."

The secretary of the Argentine Federation of Textile Industrialists, engineer Horacio Toccalino, showed similar enthusiasm. The factories in his organization generate employment for 80,000 people and annually produce 180,000 tons of different fibers.

Toccalino said that points of interest to both sectors were analyzed during this first contact. There will be another meeting in the near future to shape specific agreements to facilitate trade. In his opinion, trade must be complementary, not substitutive, in order to stimulate maximum capacity of the industries in both countries.

Wood Situation

Michel Asselot, representative from CORMA [Chilean Lumber Corporation], and Hernan Brunswig, president of the Chilean-Argentine Chamber of Commerce based in Buenos Aires, pointed out the problems Chilean producers in the south have with the wood shipments to trans-Andean territory.

They said that a meeting of the forestry representatives of the two countries within the Chilean-Argentine business committee will be organized in the next 30 days.

The meeting will probably be held in Buenos Aires. The Chileans hope to meet with truly interested trans-Andean sectors and also review renegotiation of the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] agreement for the sector that expires at the end of the year.

Asselot and Brunswig said that the Chilean forestry export sector and the Argentine import sector now face the problem that a product sold under the ALADI agreement is subject to limitations by Argentine trade authorities. This hurts the normal flow of exports from our country to Argentina. They indicated: "This basically concerns the illustrious pine. This has seriously affected the producers in southern Chile whose only market is Argentina."

Wood exports to trans-Andean territory are the second most important sector after copper. Last year alone this brought in about \$25 million in foreign currency revenue for Chile.

They indicated that in Mendoza it was only possible to meet with small and medium Argentine producers who are interested in limiting imports of Chilean illustrious pine which competes in quality and price with trans-Andean wood.

Chilean Ports

Lauro Andrade, sales manager of Empresa Sud Americana de Vapores, summarized the main conclusions of the work group that analyzed the situation of maritime, land and air routes that connect Chile and Argentina for EL MERCURIO.

He said: "It was stated that integration goes much further than mutual trade. It is very important to consider the possibility of complementing each other in order to jointly meet the demands of third countries that cannot be efficiently satisfied individually."

Andrade agreed with the Argentine chairman of this work commission, Alberto Saenz, stating that the Pacific markets are of great interest to Chile and Argentina.

He added: "In this case, Chile's advantages in ports compared to Argentina are obvious. For example, in the Mendoza area, the ports of Valparaiso and San Antonio are less than half the travel distance compared to going from Mendoza to Buenos Aires."

This interest was obvious in the series of exhausting business meetings that Chilean representatives of port, shipping and land transportation enterprises held. They answered questions from Argentine businessmen about freight costs and the use of port terminals in our country.

Andrade concluded: "I feel that traffic of Argentine merchandise and products through our ports will soon increase markedly once the trans-Andean businessmen learn the ease and efficiency of operations in our maritime terminals."

Alberto Saenz, a transporter, said that one of the preliminary agreements to facilitate the use of land and maritime routes involved asking the authorities to make customs at the border passes uniform and reduce tolls.

Saenz said that the idea of using Chilean ports to reach eastern markets and the west coast of the United States is viewed optimistically in Argentina, especially in the landlocked area.

Domingo Arteaga

Domingo Arteaga, former president of SOFOFA [Industrial Development Association], also attended this 3-day meeting.

He told EL MERCURIO that he was representing an industrial consortium of eight metalworking and plastics enterprises.

"I have made valuable contacts that we will analyze carefully when we return to Santiago. I am very happy about this renewed contact with the Argentine business sector. It has historically been a natural market for us."

Arteaga revealed that there is great interest among Argentine plastics industrialists to exchange parts and raw materials needed for the development of this industrial activity.

Pistons

Two businessmen from the piston enterprise Inapis, Llamal Missleh and Raul Ci-fuentes, were interviewed at their well-stocked automotive parts stand. They said that they cannot now export their products across the border but they had the opportunity here to show their Argentine colleagues the feasibility of initiating trade.

Missleh indicated: "We send pistons and they send us cylinder sleeves for engines." He spoke enthusiastically as did the rest of those who attended this business meeting that ends at noon today. At that time, the conclusions and agreements reached will be announced.

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CSO: 3348/688

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ST LUCIA DISCUSSES TRADE WITH CARICOM PARTNERS

FL211940 Bridgetown CANA in English 1637 GMT 21 May 85

[Article by Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, 21 May--Trinidad and Tobago and St Lucia meet in Port of Spain this month to discuss obstacles to greater trade between them, George Mallet, the St Lucia trade minister, announced here. Mallet said he will be traveling to Trinidad to meet his counterpart to examine ways of redressing an imbalance in trade between them.

Mallet spoke of Trinidad and Tobago having a very favorable balance of trade with St Lucia and noted that while St Lucia's imports from Trinidad and Tobago had increased, exports from St Lucia had actually declined.

Officials of the two governments will meet next week to lay the groundwork for the ministerial meeting later in the month, Mallet added.

Essentially we will be seeking ways of increasing trade both out of Trinidad and Tobago and out of St Lucia to the advantage of both countries, Mallet added.

Meanwhile, Mallet also announced that St Lucia had begun discussions with three of its Caricom partners--Guyana, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines--for barter arrangements.

Mallet described trade between the two countries in non-petroleum products as being stagnant, since Trinidad and Tobago imposed licensing requirements for imports into that country two years ago. St Lucia's garment industry was especially hard-hit by the restrictions.

Mallet said St Lucian exporters found difficulties both in getting licenses and in obtaining clearance for the Central Bank.

These are the two matters we are going to discuss with the minister of commerce (of Trinidad and Tobago), to see how this can be eased, because after all we are buying reasonable quantities from Trinidad insofar as we are able to buy. But we are not getting reciprocity, Mallet added.

Meanwhile, Mallet announced that St Lucia was in the process of negotiating barter arrangements with Guyana, St Vincent and Dominica to exchange St Lucian products for [word indistinct].

Mallet said discussions had already begun with the three countries.

In the case of Guyana, talks are continuing with a view to formalizing a trading system. With St Vincent we have agreed to increase trade, while talks with Dominica are continuing and progressing satisfactorily.

Mallet added that the objective was to gain a better insight into production levels of various products in each territory, so there will be greater possibilities of expanding trade.

The discussions with St Vincent also focused on the issue of duplication of industries, which Mallet said had been occurring in the past few years.

CSO: 3298/716

BELIZE

CREDIT SQUEEZE, THREAT OF DEVALUATION HURTING ECONOMY

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 28 Apr 85 p 4

[From anonymous column "Dick & Jerry"]

[Text] The pressure on the Belize dollar from Government's credit squeeze is now resulting in a shortage of US dollars. Trade continues to dry up and merchants are hindered from buying new goods. On this management of the economy we cannot hope to pass IMF tests. Will the PUP be again blamed for this situation? Add to this the dramatic flight of the Belizean dollar from fear of devaluation. The management of the Belizean economy requires skill and experience.

Government has intensified the credit squeeze. Not content with raising-up interest rates on loans made by the commercial banks, it has sucked even more money out of the system by requiring the banks to leave even larger deposits with the Central Bank Result--commercial loans are not available in the economy. This is the esquivel squeeze--only the money can by.

The credit squeeze may seem a subtle way for government to suck money out of the system to pay creditors and to be apparently doing better than the PUP. This public sector political propaganda play is, however, expensive for the private sector whose businesses shrink from the tight squeeze. The Esquivel squeeze or the Net Vasquez embrace?

CSO: 3298/668

BELIZE

NEW GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET HIT; UNION SAID TO BE CAVING IN

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 28 Apr 85 p 4

[Text] The bottom line of the 1985/86 U.D.P. Budget is to freeze wages at their 1983 levels while raising taxes and ignoring the continuing inflationary increase in the prices of goods.

This, inspite of the fact that the actual revenues for 1984/85 showed an increased. The estimates for 1985/86 also expects to grow. For all that the UDP is asking the government employees to tighten their belts and make the big sacrifice of by-passing a salary increase.

Ministers, however, are making no such sacrifices. They have found devious ways of meeting their own expenses. The ministers have increased their expense accounts. There is now also money for ministerial entertainment. And of course from day one the Ministers have increased their travelling allowance by some fifty per cent.

When we add to this the fact that when Ministers travel they bring goods back into the country for which no duty is paid, we can see how privileged the ministers are over us humble, ordinary citizens.

The same of the whole affair is the attitude of the leadership of the Public Officers' Union. This union was most vociferous during the last administration.

The last strike called by the union in 1981 was over a political matter that had no thing to do with its members' wages. Today there is talk about the President of the Union will be elevated to Permanent Secretary thus taking him to the top of the ladder of the salary scale of a public officer.

The rank and file of the union feels betrayed by Bill Tillett. They have been sold down the river. Many of them are taking the easy way out and are leaving the service.

But the best hope for the rank and file are those who intend to stay and fight for the rights of public officers or civil servants as one Minister referred to them during the debate on the budget.

BRAZIL

SARNEY'S INTENT TO CHANGE MINISTERS SOON DISCUSSED

PY311922 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 May 85 p 5

[Article by Jomar Morais, reporter from the Brasilia branch office]

[Excerpts] President Jose Sarney in the past few days has begun working on the idea of replacing at least two of his ministers in the next 60 days. According to an important minister, Sarney has revealed his intentions to close friends. This report has been confirmed by another minister, who revealed the target of the president's maneuvers: Justice Minister Fernando Lyra and Agriculture Minister Pedro Simon.

Since his confirmation as president of the Republic following the death of Tancredo Neves, Sarney has been trying to adjust a cabinet he did not choose by reshuffling posts and reconciliating the different ideas of his ministers. But the persistence of misunderstandings, especially in the economic sector, and the discrete pressures posed by the leaders of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMOB] and of the Liberal Front Party [PFL], are increasingly leading the president to more direct action.

Right now, Sarney is watching the new conflict between Labor Minister Almir Pazzianoto and Industry and Commerce Minister Roberto Gusmao over the strikes. Urged by the president to patch up the quarrel, the two ministers last week exchanged cordial remarks over the telephone and in public, but behind the scenes Gusmao undermined the draft bill on collective negotiations proposed by Pazzianotto to control the strikes.

Sarney is also watching with concern the different paths being followed by Planning Minister Joao Sayad and Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles. But in this case, as FOLHA DE SAO PAULO reported on 26 May, the president is hoping to solve this problem by holding a meeting this week with the two ministers seeking "to harmonize their ways of talking" and to establish the economic policy he intends to adopt. Sarney supports the guidelines prepared by the finance minister, especially in conducting negotiations with the IMF and the banks, but he also does not disregard Sayad's contributions to the formation of a government plan in the social field.

In the economic sector, the most vulnerable post from the Planalto Palace's point of view is that of the Agriculture Ministry. The president would like

to designate someone to replace Pedro Simon, but he is also trying to avoid friction with Ulysses Guimaraes, who proposed the designation of the current minister. There is no one on the PMDB board who will oppose Fernando Lyra's replacement, since, after all, he was personally chosen by Tancredo Neves. However, he is facing other difficulties. The PMDB will not accept the designation of anyone outside its own cadre. But the president, a minister stated, has demonstrated through his actions that he is getting ready to give Lyra's seat to his own political adviser, Celio Borja, to whom he has transferred powers that once belonged to the justice minister.

CSO: 3342/182

BRAZIL

MINISTERS SAY FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WELCOME

PY060141 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English 5 Jun 85 p 1

[Special to the DAILY POST by Edwin Taylor]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Two top government ministers Tuesday told foreign businessmen that their presence is definitely welcome in Brazil.

The message came from Industry and Commerce Minister Roberto Gusmao and Planning Minister Joao Sayad during the concluding sessions of a 2-day seminar on the Brazilian economy for foreign Brazilian businessmen, sponsored by the Geneva-based EMF Foundation.

In explaining the government's concept of an industrial policy for Brazil, Gusmao stressed that the country needs "a constant flow of new technology and foreign capital."

Gusmao said the New Republic is developing an industrial policy that reduces the role of government in the economy and rewards those areas of the private sector with the greatest and quickest growth potential.

"We are trying to protect private enterprise without using protectionism," said Gusmao, referring to the use of fiscal incentives for high-growth sectors.

For this, he said, the country needs resources. "If internal resources are enough, they will solve this problem. But we know there are not investments available for all the sectors. There are few other sources of investment, either the government provides them or we have to open up to foreign capital. Obviously, we have to open up."

According to Gusmao, the only question is in what form to receive foreign capital, as independent risk capital or in association with Brazilian firms. This, he said, is a matter for Congress to decide.

"From the government point of view, we feel you cannot develop a country with as much potential as Brazil but lacking in resources unless you have foreign investment. These investments will always be welcome in the new policy of Brazil."

Market Reserve

When questioned on the market reserve policy in the computer area and the possibility other reserves may be created, Gusmao told the foreign businessmen that the government's informatics policy was designed to preserve the domestic market and permit the growth of Brazilian technology.

While admitting that a market reserve "sometimes preserves certain interests that are not in the real interests of the country," Gusmao refused to criticize the existing restrictions on foreign computer firms, saying the law is already in effect and foreign businessmen must learn to live with it.

He said, however, he does not believe the restrictions will be expanded, calling such a move "irrational."

Gusmao promised his listeners that the economic policies of the New Republic will not be hidden from view.

"What we wish to underline is that national policy will be transparent. There will be no disagreeable surprises," he said.

According to Gusmao, the goal of the government is to assist Brazilian industry reach the point where it can compete with the industries of the developed nations. "Brazil can reach this stage and it will," he stated.

In general, Gusmao gave the businessmen an upbeat view of Brazil, saying that "the economy is growing, industry is growing. We have an exceptional soy crop and the coffee crop is also good. We are growing. Brazil has to believe in its own dynamism."

Sayad, after his closed session with the foreign roundtable participants, merely told reporters "foreign capital is very welcome in Brazil." He did not elaborate.

After Sayad finished his remarks, the forum broke up into five private discussion groups with the foreign businessmen closeted with Brazilian sectorial specialists.

This is the first year the EMF Foundation has held a roundtable on Brazilian concerns. More than 100 foreigners and another 50 Brazilians attended the event, which began on Monday with an address by Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles, who also expressed the opinion that foreign capital was welcome in Brazil.

CSO: 3300/35

BRAZIL

FIRST PCB MEETING SINCE 1947 CONVENES IN BRASILIA

PY051615 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Jun 85 p 5

[Text] Brasilia--"Excuse me. I have been so used to living underground." These words by Giocondo Dias, secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], spoken while trying to overcome the difficulty of speaking in public after so many years of proscription, perfectly reflect the climate prevailing at the first PCB meeting since 1947. Red flags with the hammer and sickle, signs and posters inviting the people to join, buttons and T-shirts with the PCB acronym and sales of books that have been banned show the climate of euphoria reflected in the eyes of hundreds of persons who exchanged expressions of joy, and distrust at the same time, as if they feared that "the feast would end," as a member stated.

The "notables" of the PCB, also known as the "Partidao," names that have only been whispered until recently, were praised, greeted, and invited to speak. This was the case with Giocondo Dias, Salomao Malina, Dr Mario Schemberg, Givaldo Siqueira, Julio Teixeira, Antonio Granja, Federal Deputies Roberto Freire (Pernambuco State) and Fernando Santana (BA), and "Frei Chico," leader of the Sao Caetano (Sao Paulo) metalworkers, and brother of Luis Inacio da Silva, Lula, who is giving up the Workers Party [PT] to joint the PCB.

The only party leader accredited to the Federal Chamber of Deputies who was present at the PCB meeting was Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] Deputy Cristina Tavares (Pernambuco), who hailed "the historical moment in which the doors are opening for the communists to defend their ideas."

Still within the PMDB, but ready to join the Democratic Labor Party [PDT], Federal Deputy Elquissom Soares (Bahia State) also praised the PCB in the democratic process, and expressed surprise over "the absence from the meeting of the opposition political parties that during the years in which they fought against authoritarianism had the support of the communists."

CSO: 3342/187

BRAZIL

DISMISSALS, LOSSES DURING METALWORKERS STRIKE SURVEYED

PY060028 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Jun 85 p 21

[Text] Sao Paulo--The Ford metalworkers strike in Sao Bernardo do Compo, which ended yesterday, had two stages: It began on 11 April and ended on 22 April because of the death of President Tancredo Neves, and then it resumed on 20 May and concluded yesterday. Ford, which produces 700 vehicles daily, failed to manufacture 30,000 units during this time. The company has 14,000 employees, 239 of whom were dismissed because of the strike.

The Volkswagen Company in Sao Bernardo do Campo was the enterprise where the strike took place in the most varied manner: A total stoppage from 11 to 12 April; a slowdown from 15 to 19 April; a partial stoppage from 23 April to 7 May (production during these two periods reached only 40 percent); and a total stoppage from 8 to 31 May. Volkswagen, which has 30,000 employees, dismissed 1,084 employees and failed to manufacture 28,000 cars.

At the General Motors factory in Sao Caetano do Sul, the strike was total from 11 April to 6 May, and the enterprise, which has 11,500 employees, dismissed 448. Its daily production totals 450 vehicles, and during the strike it failed to produce 10,000 units. At the GM factory in Sao Jose dos Campos, occupied by the strikers from 25 to 27 April, the strike lasted from 11 April to 9 May. There, 4,070 of the 9,440 employees were dismissed.

The strike at the Mercedes Benz factory in Sao Bernardo do Campo was total from 11 to 21 April and from 6 to 17 May. This company produces 135 vehicles daily, employing 11,400 employees, 86 of whom were dismissed.

At the Saab-Scania factory in Sao Bernardo do Campo, the strike lasted from 11 April to 13 May. With a daily production of 17 units, the company failed to produce 500 during that period. No one was dismissed from this company.

CSO: 3342/187

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

CHIEF MINISTER ANSWERS QUERIES IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 20 Apr 85 p 12

[Text] Questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. H. L. Stoultt) at the Third Sitting of the Second Session of the Tenth Legislative Council on Thursday April 11th 1985

TO: THE HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER:

QUESTION 1: Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Honourable House what was the revenue and expenditure at the end of November, 1984.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, the Treasury returns show that at the end of November 1984 operating revenue was \$17,369,000 and operating expenditure was \$17,758,000. An analysis of the progression of operating revenue and expenditure for 1984, together with the comparable figures for 1983, was given during the course of my Budget Address to the Legislative Council on March 5, 1985, copies of which were distributed that day to all Honourable Members.

QUESTION 2: Will the Honourable Chief Minister and Minister for Finance tell this Honourable House what is the deficit for the year 1984.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, as stated in my Budget Address to this Council on March 5, 1985, the first count of Treasury figures produced after the close of the financial year on December 31, 1984, which are thus subject to correction, indicated an estimated surplus on the 1984 Operating account of some \$458,000. When contributions to the Capital Fund of \$1.32 million are taken into consideration, they produce an estimated excess of expenditure over revenue on the Operating account of \$865,000. The counterpart of this is that the Capital Fund is expected to carry forward an unspent credit balance of \$184,000 at the beginning of the 1985 financial year, denoting an overall excess expenditure over revenue of \$679,000 in 1984, compared with \$1,183,000 in 1983.

QUESTION 3: Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Honourable House what was the total cost for pensioners as a result of the 1983 salary increase for civil servants.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, the total annual annual pensions bill following the 1983 increases is now some \$330,000.

QUESTION 4: Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Honourable House what was the balance of the consolidated fund at December 31, 1983.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, as indicated on page 3 of the 1985 Draft Operating Budget summary of annual costs, the revised general revenue balance at the end of 1983 was \$3,625,000.

QUESTION 5: Will the Honourable Chief Minister of Finance tell the House how much money has been spent to date from the 200,000 pounds sterling received from the UK for repairing damage done by Klaus.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, the whole of the UK Special Grant of £200,000 for storm damage in November has been spent. A claim for reimbursement of \$224,000 has been dispatched to the Overseas Development Administration in order to comply with the requirement that the special grant be used and accounted for in the 1984/85 UK financial year.

QUESTION 6: Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Honourable House what time he will be coming up with a project for Wickham's Cay II, bearing in mind he has "killed" the plans of the former government.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot determine what project plans the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is making reference to; if it is by chance the factory proposed by the previous Government for Wickham's Cay II, I would remind him that at the last sitting of this House I informed him that (a) the project as conceived was unviable and (b) that there was no evidence of the existence of the demand projected to justify the project. In the circumstances CDB has been asked to consider the feasibility of providing a multi-purpose facility which will include the warehousing and some shops as an alternative. The reaction to this proposal is awaited.

QUESTION 7: Will the Honourable Chief Minister and Minister of Finance tell the House how much money was spent on Capital Projects from the Territory's Consolidated fund in 1984.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, the Consolidated Fund is not used to finance capital projects; the costs of these are met from the Capital fund established in 1981. The total provisional figure for capital expenditure from all sources in 1984 is \$2,242,000.

QUESTION 8: Will the Honourable Minister tell the House what was the final cost of engineering works done on the Wickham's Cay II project, which was planned by the former government and which he has failed to carry through.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the Honourable Member is again making reference to the factory shells to which I referred in my answer to the sixth question. The final cost of the engineering works for this ill-conceived project commissioned by the previous Government was \$26,950.00

Questions by the Member of the Ninth District (Hon. Ralph O'Neal)

**TO: THE HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

QUESTION 1: Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Honourable House why the British Virgin Islands was chosen as the venue for a British Military exercise code named Jumping Mercury in July, 1985 and what benefits will accrue to the Territory.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, the planned operation with the appellation "Jumping Mercury" will be purely training exercise of the British Armed Forces. It is similar to the exercise successfully carried out here in June of 1980 with the approval of the Government of the day. The Territory was selected because it provides a unique opportunity for servicemen to train in geographical conditions such as obtained here. There will be benefits to the Territory arising mainly from the fact that the group will be acquiring provisions from a number of local suppliers and that the servicemen will be enjoying recreation in our tourist resort areas. The exercise will thus bring direct business and indirect promotion benefits.

QUESTION 2: Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Honourable House the terms of appointment of the Committee he set up under the Chairmanship of the Honourable member for the Sixth District to consider matters dealing with immigration in the Territory.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, matters dealing with immigration are dealt with by the Immigration Department, which comes under my portfolio, in consultation in certain instances with the Immigration Board.

QUESTION 3: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance please give details of the amount of each grant given to the British Virgin Islands Festival Committee, the East End/Long Look Festival Committee and the Virgin Gorda Festival Committee during the calendar and fiscal year 1984.

ANSWER: Mr. Speaker, the amount of each grant to the respective Committees is as follows:

British Virgin Islands Festival Committee	\$21,000
East End/Long Look Festival Committee	\$2,000
Virgin Gorda Festival Committee	\$1,200

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

BRIEFS

NEW TOURISM CHIEF--Effective March 1, 1985, Mr. Allen O'Neal has been appointed Director of Tourism for the British Virgin Islands. Mr. O'Neal was appointed to the staff of the British Virgin Island Tourist Board as Acting Executive Secretary in August, 1981 when the substantive holder of that post went on study leave. In February, 1982, Mr. O'Neal was appointed as General Manager of the Board's North American office in New York and continued in that capacity until his recent appointment as Director of Tourism. Mr. O'Neal, a British Virgin Islander, was born on November 29, 1957. He attended the Virgin Gorda Primary School and later attended the British Virgin Islands High School from where he graduated in 1975. In 1975 Mr. O'Neal attended Baruch College of the City University of New York where he majored in Management and minored in Accountancy. He later graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 1980 and in addition, received honours achievement awards in mathematics, management science and philosophy. [Excerpt] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 27 Apr 85 p 5]

CSO: 3298/699

CHILE

EXPANSION PLAN TO DOUBLE COPPER PRODUCTION

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 May 85 p C-5

[Article by Luis Rios]

[Text] Saladillo--A periodic expansion plan based on the drop in copper content will increase extraction from the current 22,000 metric tons per day to 28,000 metric tons by the end of the year in the Andean Division of CODELCO [Copper Corporation] of Chile.

The project stems from a basic engineering study by the enterprise Fluor-Chile. The objective is to increase extraction to 50,000 metric tons per day by 1992. The program covers the combined extraction processes of the two deposits: underground and surface mining.

At the end of the expansion in 1992, 150,000 metric tons of refined copper will be produced--that is, 50 percent more than current capacity.

The expansion plan seeks to intensify ore extraction, exploiting the good quality of the content in the underground and surface mines in the Rio Blanco ravine southeast of Los Andes.

The acting general manager, Francisco Balart Gamboa, explained to regional authorities that, with new equipment and technologies, 105,000 tons of refined copper were produced last year. There were profits for the first time. He added that plans were to increase production this year to 118,000 tons.

He indicated that, to reach new goals, Andina will adapt a new concentrator and other expansion projects under the expansion plan.

Until recently Andina was in fourth place among CODELCO divisions but these new achievements put it in third place behind Chuquicamata and El Teniente.

The copper content of the ore was 2.5 percent 15 years ago when work at Andina began. Now it has gone down to an average of 1.5 percent.

7717
CSO: 3348/686

CHILE

SOFOFA CHARGES STATE ENTERPRISES INVADING PRIVATE SECTOR

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 May 85 p B-1

[Text] According to reports collected by various associations which are the basis of last Thursday's statement by the Society for the Promotion of Manufacturing (SOFOFA), several private sectors have been threatened in recent months by the "aggressive action" of government enterprises and agencies in the areas of production and services.

In short, the SOFOFA statement declared that government agencies and enterprises--among which are identified the foundry Fundicion El Teniente of CODELCO [the Copper Corporation], the printing presses of Carabineros, the Military Geographic Institute, LA NACION, the Gendarmerie, the University of Santiago, the Laboratorio Chile, ECOM [government computer enterprise] and LAN-Chile [the national airline]--are engaged in "aggressive action" in the fields of production and services already served by private enterprise.

In its statement SOFOFA maintains that the constitutional principle of subsidiarity "appears to be a dead letter in view of the actions of the managers of the public enterprises." Along with the disclosure of the problem affecting private enterprise, SOFOFA expressed the need for a regulation of an obligatory nature to control inroads by government enterprises and agencies into the private sector. It explained the advisability of moving rapidly toward the sale of enterprises, and said "it would be better if they were operating in private hands."

Key Problems

According to the data collected by Asimet one of the problems which has arisen is represented by the expansion of the activities of the foundry Fundicion El Teniente of CODELCO which has been replacing private enterprise foundries supplying the Gran Minería del Cobre. This problem was raised more than a year ago when it became clear that Fundacion El Teniente was winning a growing number of the bids which CODELCO calls for each year for supplying its Andina, Chuquicama and El Salvador divisions.

Asimet said that Fundicion El Teniente has increased its production capacity by about 70 percent during the last 3 years, "which does not reflect increased efficiency but an obvious expansion."

According to Asimet, this fact will be reflected in the market and it will cause a fall in prices since it will cause an oversupply of production while the capacity of the private sector remains unchanged.

Other Areas

The data collected by SOFOFA indicates that another area where one can clearly discern "the distortion created by the government inroads into the economy" is in the field of computer services. According to statements by SOFOFA spokesmen, "As a means of bolstering ECOM, a government enterprise which has suffered financial misfortunes, some government enterprises and agencies have been persuaded to place orders with it without making the required public calls for bids, even rejecting lower quotations by private enterprises."

As for pharmaceutical products, the problem is revealed in "Laboratorios Chile's growing share of the market, which has harmed other enterprises in this field. Some of them have already closed down or are on the verge of closing since they realize they cannot compete with the offers made by the government enterprise." SOFOFA announced in this regard that the Laboratorios Chile's actions are at this moment causing the withdrawal from Chile of "an important foreign laboratory."

SOFOFA also referred to the case of LAN because in its domestic flights this enterprise is offering 50 percent fare reductions, in spite of its "very grave situation due to losses", which harm the other private enterprises covering domestic routes.

Another of the specific points made by SOFOFA refers to "business continuity" which is most evident in the situation of MACHASA, a textile complex which in the judgment of the Chilean Textile Institute is "distorting the market by operating under special financially privileged conditions." In this case the spokesmen for SOFOFA and of the Institute insist that the enterprise should be sold at auction as soon as possible to the highest bidder, putting an end to the calls for bids with a minimum price which up to now have failed.

9204
CSO: 3348/685

CHILE

ANTARCTIC COMMUNITY MAY FORM BASIS FOR CREATION OF PROVINCE

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 12 May 85 p 9

[Text] Neither the cold, the loneliness nor the distance have prevented the birth of Villa Las Estrellas, the first constellation in the Antarctic skies. On 8 April, as in all of Chile, school began; there have been three births and not even the penguins are surprised at this small and vigorous community which has succeeded in blending into the landscape, strictly complying with the terms of the Antarctic Treaty.

The population increased in April to 12 families with a total of 20 children. The men perform various tasks in the fields of meteorology, medicine, air traffic control and other missions appropriate to the Chilean Air Force (FACH) Base Teniente Marsh. As to the women, they carry out various types of activities in the shops of CEMA-Chile [Mothers Centers] and CONAPRAN. They make their own bread and have even organized a folklore group called Liquenes.

This small but complete Antarctic city has almost all the modern amenities: a post office, a mini-supermarket and they even have their own daily newscasts on closed-circuit TV. As in every community, Villa Las Estrellas has a mayor, a function carried out on an interim basis by German Fuschlocher Gonzalez, FACH base commander.

One of the great challenges faced in setting up the city was the schooling of the children. It is in the hands of teachers Miguel Fuentes and Aida Bravo who brought their three children here. The type of education is personalized in such a way that by forming age groups, they conduct programs equivalent to those of the mother country. The teachers are highly trained educators who underwent a long preparation for setting up the Villa Las Estrellas schools.

An Antarctic Province?

The IV Legislative Commission and the Joint Commission, branches of the government Junta, are currently studying a bill which would change the political division of Chile in the Los Lagos, Aysen, Magallenes and the Antarctic regions. If approved, the proposal would mean the birth of a new province on the frozen continent with all the corresponding administrative development which this would entail.

Antarctic Future

Under the current Antarctic Treaty there can be no exploitation of minerals, fishing or extractive industries on this continent which would convert its nickname--"breadbasket of the world"--into reality.

For this reason it is essential that we proceed rapidly with studies of the natural wealth and industrial potential which the frozen continent may in the future provide.

Villa Las Estrellas is the only city of its kind in the Antarctic and demonstrates the futuristic vision of the country's Government since once the treaty is modified and the economic exploitation of the continent begins it will be of vital importance to have inhabitable places.

It should be stressed that at present Villa Las Estrellas on King George Island is becoming a unique tourist center since the Teniente March base has the only hostelry in the territory. This program has attracted a large number of North American tourists.

The Chilean group, along with the personnel of the national military bases, is keeping our Antarctic sovereignty alive and has become an important neighbor within the Antarctic community, cooperating with meteorological reports to foreign bases and in other important ways.

9204
CSO: 3348/685

CHILE

FARMERS PROTEST RESETTLEMENT OF SANTIAGO SLUM DWELLERS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 May 85 p C-3

[Text] Small farmers in one sector of the new commune of La Pintana rejected the idea of relocating 750 families from the Raul Silva Henriquez camp next to their parcels, according to Pabla Maturana, president of the Mapuhue Co-operative Society, yesterday.

The minister of housing and urban affairs, Miguel Angel Poduje, revealed that if those owners had asked for a meeting, he would have met with them. "We work with our doors wide open. I prefer to learn about the problem directly. At best, the situation would already be solved if they had not just used a press notice."

The situation became known because of an insertion published last Saturday addressed to the minister of housing and minister of agriculture from the committee of La Pintana Cooperatives, the Camino Los Acacios Union of Parcel Owners and the Mapuhue Cooperative Society which represent 1,500 owners.

Meeting

The last group named met yesterday to examine the situation. That cooperative is formed by 335 family farms of 1 or .5 hectare each which have approximately 3,000 inhabitants. It is at Points 39 and 40 of Avenida Santa Rosa to the west.

The members farm and raise poultry and rabbits. There is a mechanized slaughterhouse and even a chinchilla breeder in addition to the dairy that produces 4,000 liters per day.

The leader revealed that one of the members had called attention to the plan to relocate some of the inhabitants of the Silva Henriquez camp on a sector of the former Esperanza estate. It has 11 hectares and its only access is Calle Guacolda. She said: "The place is surrounded by irrigation canals whose waters would be polluted by the latrines, garbage, etc. This would infect the farm production consumed in Santiago. If the plan is finalized, we will be in the midst of new slums."

Maria Angelica Poblete de Guillastri revealed that since she has a parcel a few feet from the current camp, "we have not been able to plant, much less rent the land."

Jose Mercedes Morales, another resident, stated that he had 15 horses of which only 3 remain. The rest have been killed by unknown persons. "I practically have to sleep on horseback because they disappear or just the bones remain the next day."

They revealed that they had sent a note to Minister Poduje via the under secretary. They will also send a letter to the president of the republic.

Poduje Responds

In an interview with this newspaper, the minister of housing yesterday indicated that he learned about the concern of the La Pintana farmers from the press notice. The farms for resettling the residents of the Silva Henriquez camp are within city limits. Therefore, "it cannot be said that we are using agricultural land for housing."

He indicated that if there had been some isolated or temporary problem like, for example, that it bordered the city limits or was too close to it and produced some distortion, it would be analyzed. We do not want to make the problem worse. Any situation can be studied.

He repeated that MINVU [Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs] is willing to resolve these concerns. However, "one looks at the problem globally. Land is allocated within the city limits which is appropriate for housing people." He stated that the La Pintana farmers "have not asked me or, as far as I know, the minister of agriculture for a meeting."

Resettlement

Poduje calmly added that the plans to resettle the first groups of families are advancing. The first bids have been awarded and some enterprises are working on the minimal infrastructure. "The promise is being fulfilled" to resettle them before winter.

The land is about 100 to 120 square meters with a water system in the middle. Next comes the incorporation of those residents into the program of lots with services. It is a program accepted by them so that they save and participate "jointly, combining their own efforts with those of the ministry. We must all collaborate and they have that spirit."

He stated that the first people will be resettled from the Silva Henriquez camp by the end of this month.

7717
CSO: 3348/686

CHILE

BRIEFS

URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY ANNOUNCED--The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs established a "National Policy for Urban Development," according to Minister Miguel Angel Poduje yesterday. He revealed that a guide has been drawn up that contains the basic and structural elements "to state and solve the problems that urban development generates." In statements to EL MERCURIO, he explained that this means natural and rational consolidation of the city. He said that, with the new guidelines, excessive expansion of cities in the consolidated areas will be avoided. He cited the example that there is a tendency to absorb the agricultural sector, called the "green area of the city." Minister Poduje stated that there are other elements that must be corrected now. If they are not faced now, they will lead to extensive deterioration in the future. Without going into detail, he added that "a number of measures, actions and policies aimed at putting an end to that situation will be dictated." The new regulation is not just for Santiago but for any urban unit, whether the capital of the country or a small town. Poduje indicated: "This also means consolidating urban centers. These must not expand out of control. The people should live in their places of origin and changes that cause movement toward overly concentrated cities should be avoided." [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 May 85 pp A-1, A-10] 7717

CHILEAN JOURNALISTIC AFFILIATE ORGANIZED--Caught between the remains of the Cold War and the bloc policy, international journalistic organizations have suffered from the problem of being too closely identified with one side or the other. At the beginning of the 1980's when journalist Luis Maria Anson was still head of the Spanish agency EFE, he proposed that this limitation be overcome. With tenacity, goodwill, a little luck and the help of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, this project by Anson--now director of the newspaper ABC in Madrid--was consolidated. It is called FIAP [Ibero-American Association of Journalistic Associations]. It is not part of the professional associations but it believes in their usefulness and need and works with them. The current secretary general of FIAP is Peruvian journalist Justo Chavez. He briefly visited Chile last week and opened the Chilean branch of FIAP which had been germinating for some time. The organizing committee consisted of Maria Angelica Bulnes, Octavio Neira, Aquiles Melendez, Waldo Mora and Jose Tomas Reveco. They have the mission of directing the first stage of the new organization. Emilio Filippi, Silvia Pelegrini, Cristian Zegers and Hilda Arevalo complete the slate of nine members. [Text] [Santiago HOY in Spanish 6 May 85 p 18] 7717

25 ARMY OFFICERS RETIRE--A formal ceremony will be held today at 1030 hours at the Military School to bid farewell to 14 brigadier generals and 11 colonels retiring from the Army. The deputy commander of the institution, Lt Gen Julio Canessa Robert, will preside over the ceremony. The retiring officers are brigadier generals Jaime Lucares Robledo, Alejandro Rodriguez Faine, Pedro Escudero Troncoso, Jorge Correa Gatica, Oscar Acevedo Norambuena, Miguel Alfonso Doren, Luis Merino Seoane, Jaime Machuca Boanco, Rene Gonzalez Coderch, Patricio O'Ryan Munita, Jose Bisquert Bravo, Hugo Diaz Parada, Jose Cisternas Anguita and Luis Martinez Krauschaar. The retiring colonels are Eduardo Requelme Andaur, Ferid Majmud Gallardo, Atiliano Jara Salgado, Luis Solorza Anguita, Italo Ferreti Rodriguez, Hugo Barrera Solovera, Marcelo Moren Brito, Rodolfo Meyer Navarro, Patricio Vasquez Donoso, Gonzalo Canas Grant and Salvador Giacaman Giacaman. [Text] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 10 May 85 p 4] 9204

PRESS GROUP PROTESTS DIRECTIVE--Carlos Paul, president of the National Press Association, expressed concern over an order by the Office of Metropolitan Administration instructing officials in the provinces, departments and municipalities that public notices issued by them are to be published only in LA NACION. The spokesman said that this measure indubitably affects the exercise of newspaper activity. He said, "any discrimination, of any type taking place among bodies of the press under any circumstances indubitably affects freedom of expression." He said that the directorate of the Association would request an audience with Ricardo Garcia, minister of interior, to express its concern over the government's decision. He said that during the meeting, the date of which has not been set, they will also bring up the critical situation of the regional periodicals which, he said, will be aggravated by the measure contained in the order. He said, "We have, to our great sorrow, been compelled to observe the closing of several regional newspapers, crushed by economic conditions which made it impossible for them to continue their activities. Government notices are unquestionably a means of financing the national press without compromising it with the government in power." [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 May 85 p C-3] 9204

CSO: 3348/685

ECUADOR

FEBRES-CORDERO ON POLITICS, ECONOMY, TERRORISM, OTHER ISSUES

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 7 May 85 p 1

[Text] Quito--The president of the republic, Leon Febres-Cordero, answered questions from journalists at a press conference yesterday, covering a number of issues including politics, economics, terrorism, and liberty. He announced that he will hold monthly press conferences with journalists in this capital, the first week of each month.

Febres-Cordero yesterday granted his first interview as his administration approaches its ninth month; the meeting lasted approximately 50 minutes.

Without Reservations

The president, who stated that he was delighted to have contact with the capital press, added that he will answer all questions without reservations. At the same time, he apologized for the lack of access the local press had had to him, and announced the monthly meetings in the future, scheduled for the first week of each month.

Violence

The press conference opened with questions about political groups with terrorist leanings. The president responded that "violence begets violence, and that what has happened is a resurgence of leftist activities pitted against another group. The last thing we want is violence; we want to work toward our goals of progress and development." The "Alfaro Lives . . ." group, in the president's opinion, is Jacobian in nature, a subversive organization with which the government cannot afford to show patience or indifference. He stated that this guerrilla group is involved in the drug trade, and the government will confront it on any turf. He stated that the escape of four criminals from prison was a scientific operation, and its methods clearly identify it with the M-19 movement of Colombia. For this reason, it will be repressed. As for the "Garcia Moreno Also Lives" group, it gives the impression that it is actually two groups that are trying to establish opposing subversive currents, and both will be combatted. "We are not married to anyone," he noted, neither left-wing nor right-wing criminals.

Search for Peace

The president expressed regret about the tensions in Central America, stating that these tensions should be reduced so that the search for peace and development can continue. He indicated that the United States' embargo against Nicaragua is a matter between those two countries on which he could not comment.

Summit Meeting

Referring to the idea of a "summit meeting" of presidents on the Galapagos Islands, he explained that no official invitation had been issued, but a suggestion had been made that the presidents meet to discuss substantive issues. He had proposed Galapagos, he said, because it is a geographically isolated place suitable for a meeting of this kind, far from radio, television and telex. He added that it is up to the individual presidents whether they want to accept the initiative, and expressed hope that they could meet.

Congress

The president expressed the opinion that a special session of Congress called to deal with a specific agenda cannot be adjourned until that agenda has been completed, and he cited the regulations of the National Congress. The end of the previous session--also with a specific agenda--according to the ruling handed down by the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal, was an exceptional move aimed at making it possible to hold a special session to study an emergency economic decree-law.

Won't Be Kicked Around

When asked if he feared congressional oversight, he responded that he has no fear whatsoever of political control, although a majority is now brutally imposing its will. It is a matter of everyone adhering to the Constitution, "because the government wears the pants, and won't be kicked around by anyone."

In response to a question about his administration consisting of cronies, he in turn asked which ones were the cronies; he asserted that he had named as ministers capable men who were not friends of his.

He also was asked if the National Reconstruction Front, which supports his administration, is encountering difficulties now. He stated that the parties that make up the Front are still in it, and that the Front is dormant but still supports him. He also has the support of the voters who put him in office, he asserted.

Public Debt

The president explained what has been done to reschedule the public debt, especially the portions corresponding to the so-called "Paris Club." He reported the different percentages of the refinancing, which amounts to a total of \$400 million. The president noted that funds to pay these obliga-

tions will come from the General State Budget, and that each year the draft budget that the administration sends to Congress will include the principal payments on the public debt. He reported that the renegotiation of the private international debt is completed, and that the pacts are to be signed toward the end of May.

No Shake-Up

The President also referred to "an alleged cabinet shuffle, with claims that the education minister will resign soon." He explained that the minister has never spoken of resigning. He went on to say that any serious desire to govern depends on keeping the same team, because changes mean that it takes longer to adapt to the circumstances and to administrative commitments, so a lot of time is wasted. "I am not thinking of a cabinet shake-up; the thought has not even crossed my mind."

No Miracle-Worker

He recalled that in the election campaign he never claimed to be a miracle-worker, but had said he would straighten out the country's economy, which is what he is doing. Inflation is no higher than 23 percent, which indicates a stable economy. Inflation cannot be eliminated altogether in 9 months of government. A total of 30,000 housing units is being built, and the unemployment rate has fallen.

Lost Edge

The president said that his opponents have lost their edge. They insult him; they make life impossible with violent epithets. He claimed to be a democrat through and through, noting that when he lost the first round he could have withdrawn and left an electoral vacuum, but he did not do so. The reason he is called a dictator, he said, is that here the democracy of opposition is interpreted as libertinism. They have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution. What Congress should do is attend to its business.

La Previsora Case

With regard to the embezzlement case at the Banco La Previsora, he stated that he had no superintendent or attorney general (Congress has not appointed them yet). "Seven or eight indictments are ready for prosecuting the defendants. Whatever former President Hurtado says is irrelevant; he didn't know where he was then, and it is even worse now. They committed the crime. The chief justice of the Supreme Court should act on the recommendations by the minister of justice; the problem is now in the hands of that department. A Christian Democrat who used to chair the National Housing Board and who accused his brother is running around freely there. I have to send this man to jail, regardless of the powerful people who defend him."

Provide Proof

The president said, with reference to the problem in the Ecuadorean Sanitation Projects Institute (IEOS), that Deputy Eduardo Carmignani is free to make

accusations, but he must back them up with documentary proof. He added that Undersecretary of Environmental Protection Efrain Baus has his full support.

Other Issues

The absolute freedom of the press exists and is public knowledge.

In the case of television Channel 5 and the Ortel company, the president said that the clauses of the contract should be obeyed. "It is not true that the army has taken over that channel; two conscripts are merely guarding land owned by the Ministry of National Defense. I cannot be responsible for what friends and enemies may say or do. The freedom of the press is not being infringed upon, and therefore the president of the republic is being slandered and vilified every day by his enemies. Any element of the mass media that allows offensive remarks to be disseminated will be punished in accordance with the law."

In the case of Ortel, officials of the previous government are shareholders in this company, but if they comply with the clauses in the contract they can go on the air.

The president stated that his political life has come to an end upon reaching the presidency; he is not like those "crazies" who keep trying to revive their political careers.

When asked about a report in an opposition newspaper that he owed 16 million sures, he said he had never owed the treasury anything.

Wages will be raised as often as necessary, he said, but technical adjustments will be made, and the economic interests of the country and of the workers themselves will be taken into consideration.

Controls always hurt, he said, referring to the contract signed with an international company for Customs Controls. He said that the term of this contract is 1 year, and afterwards, the situation will be assessed to determine whether or not to renew the contract.

The regulations to enforce the National Security Act (the requisitions chapter) are still under study, he reported. The Joint Command of the Armed Forces has been asked to submit reports, and if the law is deemed unsuitable for the country, it will be repealed.

The case of Toral Zalamea is still under investigation, the president stated. He said it is true that Toral supported his candidacy, as did other politicians of the opposition, including Dr Jorge Zavala Baquerizo.

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CSO: 3348/695

ECUADOR

ADMINISTRATION REBUFFS HURTADO'S COMMENTS

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 11 May 85 p 5

[Text] Quito--The national government wasted no time responding to or commenting on the statements made by the former president of the republic, Dr Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea, yesterday afternoon, in defense of his administration and the officials who had served in it.

A few minutes after Hurtado Larrea had uttered his words, Administration Secretary General Joffre Torbay called a press conference to discuss the matter. Using caustic and aggressive language, he stated:

"Unfortunately, gentlemen of the press, I must discuss a statement by former President Hurtado, who held a radio press conference a few minutes ago.

"I don't know how to describe his statement, because at times he gives the impression that he is acting like the 'chief of a small clan' accused of a number of acts of corruption and thievery. He is trying to defend that clan by arguing that the president of the republic, Febres-Cordero, is intemperate, intractable and violently inclined.

"This is the argument Dr Osvaldo Hurtado uses to defend a group of friends or officials in his government who during his administration--and in the present administration, in the case of some particularly well-entrenched officials--committed and continue to commit immoral and shameful acts that have been firmly denounced by the president of the republic and are now subject to sanctions or the corresponding legal actions.

"What will happen, then, when tomorrow the Judiciary must begin proceedings against those who dealt in weevil-infested rice? Then the man who was president at the time, Dr Hurtado, will hold a press conference to defend so-and-so, who tried to poison the republic with weevil-infested rice. He will claim that President Febres Cordero is intemperate. And the next day, when the law comes down on those who negotiated Santay Island, who are also part of the clan he is unsuccessfully trying to defend today, then Dr Hurtado will call another press conference to assert that President Febres-Cordero has a bad character. In fact, President Febres-Cordero will not tolerate immorality; he is carrying out his duty by protecting the property of the nation and saving the country from a 'gang of scoundrels' who should be in jail. Unfortunately, not all who should be in jail are there yet.

"This is the real picture, in contrast to the gospel he preached at the press conference, trying to convince the country that the people have forgotten all about the hell of famine and misery into which they dragged us.

"He is trying to tell Ecuadoreans that President Febres-Cordero has no popular support, or that I don't know how many millions of supporters have 'repented.' What we have is not 1.3 million outraged citizens, but 8 million Ecuadoreans who are applauding Febres-Cordero for simply fulfilling his obligation, and who are also outraged to learn how the republic has been treated, and how people continue trying to damage the interests of the nation even after they have left office. This is all I have to say about Hurtado's statement."

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ECUADOR

OSVALDO HURTADO CRITICIZES HANDLING OF FINANCIAL CRISIS

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 12 May 85 p 15

[Text] Quito--The former president of the republic, Dr Osvaldo Hurtado, spoke at a press conference about the theft of funds from the Quito main branch of the La Previsora Bank and the Discount Bank of Guayaquil. In each case, he referred to the reports released by the administration, or statements made directly by President Leon Febres Cordero.

La Previsora

Hurtado stated that President Febres Cordero has repeatedly stated that Celso Egas, accused of embezzling 500 million sures from the La Previsora Bank, was appointed by the previous administration. The communique issued by the employees of the bank, however, certifies that Celso Egas was appointed on 18 March 1980, and everyone knows that Osvaldo Hurtado took office as president of the republic more than a year later, on 24 May 1981.

Hurtado added, however, that no matter what government appointed Egas, what the country needs to know is whether German Altamirano, his accomplice who benefited from the embezzlement of 500 million sures, was a supporter and director of the presidential campaign of the current office-holder; whether they helped finance his election campaign; and whether they frequently visited the current secretary general of public administration. Above all, the country must know why Finance Minister Francisco Sweet, chairman of the La Previsora Bank stockholders' board, despite the evidence revealed by investigations in late July 1984 that Egas was guilty of improper and suspicious conduct, not only did not fire him but actually consolidated his hold on the job. Thus, Egas remained on the job for 4 months more, and was able to embezzle the 500 million sures.

Defense of Troya Jaramillo

Former President Hurtado, going on to another issue, defended Bank Superintendent Jose Vicente Troya. He demanded to know why this official has been prevented from holding a press conference.

Dr Troya, he said, was appointed superintendent of banks by the National Congress, without a single vote against him.

Dr Hurtado remarked that the imprisonment of Superintendent Troya Jaramillo is not only an abuse of authority (just one of many that have been committed to date), but also a violation of the Constitution and the Organic Law of the Judiciary, which both state that the superintendent of banks must be judged by the Supreme Court of Justice.

"The republic," said Hurtado, "is once again shaken up by the nervous and belligerent nature of the chief executive. In the 9 months since his election, he has not missed an opportunity to provoke unnecessary and dangerous conflicts with the National Congress, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and all citizens who have dared to oppose his all-encompassing will. But now, not content with the political chaos he has unleashed in the country, he is irresponsibly creating another uproar, this time in the financial sphere. Its unpredictable economic consequences will have a serious impact on many Ecuadoreans."

"I am not saying that the government should have done nothing in view of the collapse of the Discount Bank, but it was not necessary to go shouting on television or to release confidential documents and secret reports on the serious plight of the financial system. This delicate matter should have been handled within the Monetary Board. Then they could have proceeded to liquidate the Discount Bank and begin any prosecutions that were necessary, but with an attitude of responsibility, prudence, reserve and maturity," concluded former President Osvaldo Hurtado.

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ECUADOR

FEBRES-CORDERO EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 12 May 85 p 5

[Text] Quito--Ecuadorean President Leon Febres-Cordero asserted that a fraud scandal at the Discount Bank of Guayaquil "has no effect at all on Ecuador's international financial image," and accused former President Osvaldo Hurtado of launching a "wicked" campaign to destroy him and the national financial system.

Speaking Friday night in Guayaquil, Febres-Cordero stated that the country's financial system "does have problems, but it is calm, and enjoys the absolute support of the national government." He emphasized official guarantees to savers.

As of Friday, savers had withdrawn 1.2 billion sures (\$12.43 million) after the Central Bank lent assistance to the defrauded bank.

Accusation of Fraud

Wednesday night, the president claimed that because of the fraud, the bank, which extended more than 51 percent of its loan portfolio to two individuals (one of whom fled the country), lost the equivalent of \$38.3 million.

He also accused Bank Superintendent Jose Troya, appointed by President Hurtado, of sharing liability for the crime, since his institution had intervened in the Discount Bank 5 years earlier.

Troya was arrested Thursday in Quito by the commander general of the police, Gen Edison Garces. He was transferred to the Guayaquil Prison, where a writ of habeas corpus was filed and won his release. He was not freed, however, because he was returned to the capital Thursday night.

DP to File Charges

Hurtado announced that his party, the Popular Democracy Party (DP) (Christian Democrats), will file criminal charges against the police chief for arresting Troya without a warrant. The only one who can judge the bank superintendent is the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Troya in effect enjoys the protection of that court, and thus was returned to Quito, where the chief justice of that high court, Gonzalo Cordova Galarza, confirmed the preventive detention orders against the superintendent and the manager of the defrauded bank, Gonzalo Ycaza, "because of a presumption of liability."

Febres-Cordero severely chastized Hurtado, "who loves his party more than his own republic, and is willing to destroy the country in order to destroy Febres-Cordero."

President Criticized Congress

He reiterated his criticism of the National Congress, which is dominated by the opposition, for having failed to appoint the new superintendent of banks from a list of three candidates submitted by the administration, as is the procedure with this and other government posts. "Nine months have gone by, so Parliament should explain why it has not appointed anyone."

On Friday, Troya denied the charges, stating that monetary authorities were aware of the situation at the Discount Bank. He asserted that if "the president's shocking revelation of the financial system's problems for obviously political reasons became a habit, the foundations of the financial structure would be undermined."

Supreme Court Confirms Arrests

Quito (UPI)—The former president of Ecuador, Osvaldo Hurtado, accused President Leon Febres-Cordero of causing the insolvency problem of the Discount Bank by appearing on television and criticizing the situation.

As the former and present administrations traded accusations about the situation, the chief justice of the Supreme Court confirmed the order to imprison Superintendent of Banks Jose Vicente Troya due to "a presumption of liability" in the case.

The initial charges against Troya, who is in the Garcia Moreno Prison, were filed by the manager of the Central Bank, Carlos Julio Emanuel, and the manager of the Discount Bank, Gonzalo Icaza.

Withdrawal of Deposits

The bank's customers, meanwhile, withdrew more than 600 million sures (about \$5 million) from the bank in the last 3 days. The bank's headquarters are in Guayaquil. The board of directors stated that all payments requested by customers will be honored.

Last Wednesday, Febres-Cordero made his accusation against the superintendent on radio and television networks. He alleged that the superintendent, who was part of the Hurtado administration, was one of the causes of the Discount Bank crisis because he did not report the situation in time.

Troya was arrested Thursday on orders from the Guayaquil chief of police. His attorneys challenged the legality of his incarceration, claiming that he is under the protection of the court and can only be tried by the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Troya in Garcia Moreno Prison

Troya was initially taken to Guayaquil, and then was returned to Quito, until Administration Secretary General Joffre Torbay reported that he had been remanded to the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Hurtado stated that Febres-Cordero is trying to make Troya a "scapegoat," and claimed that the bank crisis was due to problems that have arisen in recent months as a result of the bankruptcy of a powerful financial group in Guayaquil.

He added that the president aggravated the situation by announcing it in the mass media.

Febres-Cordero, in new statements, insisted on Troya's liability, and indicated that the Ecuadorean financial system is not in any danger because of the Discount Bank's problems.

The president has asked Congress to name a new superintendent of banks.

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ECUADOR

ECONOMIC GROWTH OF 3.6 PERCENT EXPECTED IN 1985

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 May 85 p A-7

[Text] One of the goals for this year outlined in the Operational Plan of the National Council for Development (CONADE) is an overall economic growth rate of 3.6 percent, based on the stimulation of the principal production sectors. The plan was submitted to government officials yesterday.

According to CONADE Executive Secretary Oswaldo Davila, the plan's objectives call for a total of 388 billion sures in investment and current spending, of which 228 million sures will be earmarked for the programs of the production sectors under the government and departmental agencies, and 160 million sures for administrative and service payments on the domestic and foreign debt.

Davila explained that the annual operational plans are designed to provide the central administration with guidelines for carrying out the government's economic and social policies and its projects and programs for public services and investment, without involving the private sector in them.

The plan calls for exports to exceed \$3 billion this year, and for the volume of exports to rise by more than 8 percent. It also envisions the promotion of investment through stimulating economic development, straightening out the financing of private enterprises, and other measures, all of which will yield a growth rate of 11.6 percent for all private and public enterprises, and 3 percent for the ministries and other public agencies.

Another goal is to obtain a trade surplus of \$960 million; a current account deficit in the balance of payments of no more than \$270 million; an increase in foreign reserves of not less than \$100 million; an inflation rate no higher than 24 percent per year; and an unbudgeted deficit of no more than 7.55 billion sures for the public sector as a whole, representing 2 percent of all spending called for in the Operational Plan. This deficit could be eliminated altogether with marginal adjustments in the execution of the budget.

The document foresees an increase of not less than 7.7 percent in the petroleum sector; a 3.8 percent expansion in the agriculture and livestock sector as a whole, in which products aimed at the domestic market will grow the most; a 6 percent growth in construction, with not less than 25,000 housing units completed; and a 3 percent growth rate in the manufacturing sector, supported

by agricultural production and the increase in construction activity, and stimulated primarily by domestic demand.

The plan estimates that domestic demand can be sustained and expanded on the basis of consumption and investment, while inflation-related erosion will be avoided, so that a growth rate of 3.3 percent can be achieved.

The financing of public spending called for in the plan is expected to come from the following sources: 73 percent from ordinary resources from petroleum and traditional products; 8 percent from capital resources (sale of stocks, transfers, direct foreign investment); 17 percent from domestic and foreign credit; and 2 percent from complementary financing, if necessary.

Approximately \$331 million in credit would be obtained for achieving the goals of the economic and social programs.

Spending under 1985 Operational Plan

	Sucres (billions)	Percent
Economic and social investments in different programs of the plan	228	59
Overhead for administrative functions and improvement	85.7	22
Servicing of domestic and foreign debt	74.3	19
Total	388.0	100

Growth of GDP (Annual Rates)

	1984	1985
Petroleum, natural gas and refining	8.0	7.7
Mines	4.0	6.0
Agriculture and livestock	11.5	3.8
Manufacturing	0.8	3.0
Construction	1.0	6.0
Electricity, gas and water	5.5	6.0
Transportation, storage and communications	1.5	2.0
Commerce and finance	1.2	3.0
Government services	2.5	2.0
Miscellaneous services	2.5	2.5
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	3.4	3.6

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CSO: 3348/695

ECUADOR

MINISTER DEPARTS FOR OPEC MEETING IN SAUDI ARABIA

PA301822 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 May 85

[Text] Natural Resources Minister Xavier Espinosa travelled to Saudi Arabia yesterday to begin Ecuador's offensive to get the OPEC to accept its current production level which is higher than the one established by that organization.

Espinosa will participate in a meeting of OPEC's ministerial executive council on Saturday. The meeting, which is to be presided over by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, will discuss the observance of the quotas established for member countries, among other topics.

Ecuador has been an open member since 1973 and its officials have admitted that the country is now producing 280,000 barrels per day and plans to produce 300,000 barrels, even though the quota set by OPEC in November is only 183,000 barrels.

Shortly before his departure, Espinosa reiterated that Ecuador wants to continue being a member of OPEC and stressed the organization's defense of Third World raw material producers. Nevertheless, Espinosa said that if Ecuador maintains the production quota set by OPEC, it could only export 50,000 barrels per day. It is now exporting 150,000 barrels. Ecuadoran spokesmen have pointed out that a return to the OPEC production level would mean an economic disaster for Ecuador because the country needs those dollars to pay for its imports and for its foreign debt totalling approximately \$7 billion.

CSO: 3348/723

ECUADOR

ARMED FORCES REINFORCE GUAYAQUIL POLICE TO FIGHT CRIME

PA250410 Quito Vos de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 May 85

[Text] It has been reported from Guayaquil that the armed forces began to reinforce civil police to fight the increase of crime in our country's most populated city.

Guayas Province Governor (Jaime Nebod) said that the armed forces will patrol the city streets, ready to go into action, should any criminal actions occur. He explained, however, that this intervention does not include raids against innocent bystanders in the streets, but warned citizens to carry their ID's. (Nebod) said the armed forces will assist until some measures planned by the government are implemented to increase the number of policemen and improve their effectiveness.

Previously, (Nebod) warned that the police force was told to resort to firearms if necessary to check crime. Guayaquil Mayor Abdala Bucaram bitterly criticized this decision which he believes violates human rights. Bucaram, who leads an opposition party, denounced this measure to the Vatican, the United Nations, the OAS, and other organizations saying: The people cannot be placed against a wall. He said that the order issued by the government can lead to mistakes, outrages, and a general massacre in which all would be involved.

During the past few months, Guayaquil was the main scenario for common crime and including sexual and political violence.

CSO: 3348/723

GUYANA

HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS CITE LACK OF FREEDOMS

FL241239 Bridgetown CANA in English 2212 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Bridgetown, 22 May--An international commission of inquiry into political freedom in Guyana has concluded that Guyanese have been deprived of their fundamental democratic rights to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

The commission, made up of representatives of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group and America's Watch of the United States, also reported that the present Guyana Government had successfully maintained itself in power and managed to silence, to a large extent, internal opposition through a combination of intimidation and the selective use of force.... Its findings were disclosed at simultaneous news conferences today held in London (UK Parliamentary Group) and New York (America's Watch) and the commission's interim report made available to CANA in Barbados.

The commission was headed by British peer, Lord Chitnis, who has observed elections for the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group in Zimbabwe in 1979 and 1980, and in El Salvador (1982 and 1984) and Nicaragua (November 1984).

The other member, Prof Jack Greenberg, who represented the Human Rights Group America's Watch, is a former director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund and is a lecturer at Columbia University School of Law. He has traveled with delegations examining human rights situations in the Philippines and Poland.

Secretary to the mission was Daniel Rosenblum, former research assistant to Lord Avebury, who is chairman of the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group and who, in 1980, headed a mission to Guyana to observe that country's general elections.

Originally, the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) was also to have been part of the commission, but withdrew after the Guyana Government refused permission for the chosen representatives to visit that country and examine political freedom, electoral laws and practices in the Guyanese society within the context of the overall human rights situation.

The ICJ had officially announced as its representative former Barbaros Foreign Minister and Attorney General Henry Forde.

Fourteen organizations in Guyana, representing the leading trade unions and churches, as well as the Guyana Bar Association and the Guyana Human Rights Association, had invited the ICJ UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group and America's Watch to undertake the mission. Their understanding was that the commission would be free to communicate with the government and all relevant groups and agencies in Guyana in order to make an independent assessment of the human rights situation.

However, after Guyana Foreign Minister, Rasleigh Jackson, informed the secretary general of the ICJ, Nial Nacdermot, who had communicated with him on behalf of the human rights groups, that the commission would not be welcome since their assignment constituted an interference in the country's domestic affairs, arrangements were made for the inquiry to take place in Trinidad, which is one hour's flying time away from Guyana.

According to a statement released today in London and transmitted to the Caribbean, the commission felt that refusal by the Guyana Government to cooperate could not prevent them from meeting with representatives of legitimate organizations in Guyana to discuss what they were originally requested to examine.

Lord Chitnis and his colleagues were in Trinidad May 1-4 during which they met representatives of the parliamentary opposition People's Progressive Party, including its leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan.

They also met the chairman of the Liberator Party, Dr Makepeace Richmond; David Decaires, representing the Bar Association; Dr Harold Luchtman, one of the presidents of the Human Rights Association and also of the University of Guyana Workers' Union, and Eusi Kwayana, a member of the Central Committee of the Working People's Alliance (WPA).

They had previously examined official documents, publications and other relevant materials.

The commission, whose report is shortly to be printed for distribution, examined a wide range of factors, including the ideological positions of political parties in Guyana; the extent of the Ruling People's National Congress (PNC) control on the society, as well as possible political control of the labor movement and freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. Movement also studied the questions of overseas voters, the judicial system and electoral regulations.

The commission concluded after its study:

The people of Guyana have been systematically deprived of their fundamental democratic rights to take part in the government of their country, directly, or through freely chosen representatives....

Although, as we have pointed out one can find other countries that are more violent and where the government is more openly repressive, the relative lack of violent, overt repression in Guyana may very well be accounted for by the totality of government control over society.

The present regime seems to be capable of being as ruthless as it needs to be--but it does not always need to be ruthless to achieve its goals.

It has successfully maintained itself in power and managed to silence to a large extent internal opposition through a combination of intimidation and the selective use of force.

President Reagan has criticized the Nicaraguan election on the grounds that the institutions of that country were so dominated by one party as to make a contest meaningless. Lord Chitnis observed and reported that this was not true. It certainly is true in Guyana.

We regret that the Guyana Government did not see fit to cooperate with our mission. We left Port of Spain profoundly pessimistic about the future of democracy in Guyana under the present regime. He will await with interest the results of and reactions to the forthcoming election.

New general elections in Guyana for a 53-member Parliament and an executive president are constitutionally due not later than March 1986.

CSO: 3298/718

GUYANA

JAGAN URGES GOVERNMENT TO END RELATIONSHIP WITH IMF

FL181814 Bridgetown CANA in English 1725 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Georgetown, 18 May--Guyana's Marxist opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan today called on the government here to end its relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The call came 48 hours after the Washington-based institution, from which financially-beleaguered Guyana has been seeking a 150 million dollar (U.S.) loan, declared the country ineligible to draw on IMF resources, because of her inability to meet payments arrears [words indistinct] fund. Guyana owes the IMF 19 million dollars (U.S.) in arrears.

Jagan, leader of the main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), in a statement here, said the main objective of the fund was to solve the economic crisis here at the expense of the working people and to place the country on a pro-capitalist imperialist course.

The former premier noted that the Guyana Government of President Forbes Burnham had already removed several subsidies from the working people's commodities here in the hope of meeting IMF loan conditions.

The IMF demands, he said, had caused the prices of rice, sugar and fuel to be increased, electricity charges to climb and the system of price controls for essential items to go haywire.

According to Jagan, experience has shown that almost everywhere the IMF went there had been trouble leading to a creeping dictatorship.

Burnham has resisted IMF demands for massive devaluation of the Guyana currency, though the local dollar has fallen significantly value over the last year.

CSO: 3298/718

GUYANA

CHURCH ORGAN CALLS FOR TRADE UNION UNITY UNDER TUC

FL172052 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Georgetown, 17 May--A call has been made here for trade unions to be free from government control and for an independent stand to be taken by unions to unite under the leadership of a liberated and dynamic Trade Union Congress (TUC).

The call was made by the CATHOLIC STANDARD, official organ of the Roman Catholic Church here, in an editorial under the caption "Independent TUC Needed."

It followed May Day celebrations here that saw the 17 pro-government unions that represent about 40 percent of the labor movement mounting separate activities from the TUC, which is now dominated by seven other unions, some opposition-linked.

The STANDARD noted that Guyana was not a one-party state, and the constitution guaranteed the right to form political parties and their freedom of action, yet the ruling party, People's National Congress (PNC), acts as if it were the only one in the country, and through its doctrine of paramountcy, seeks to control not only the commanding heights of the economy, but every organizations within the state, including workers organizations and trade unions.

The party now uses the national media as its own exclusive property. The manner in which the May Day rally was totally blacked out from the national media while the impression was given that there was only one rally, that sponsored by the party, is reminiscent of the worst kind of dictatorship, the paper said.

The STANDARD claimed that the PNC was trying to regain control of the trade union movement, which it lost in the TUC elections last September, but the workers, in the face of centralized control of the economy, see the need to be organized independently as workers.

Workers in Guyana know only too well how vulnerable they are to arbitrary dismissal, and our laws, including our new constitution, offer the worker little protection, and therefore the only recourse the workers have is to their trade unions and these need to be free from government control, the STANDARD said.

CSO: 3298/718

GUYANA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH DPRK--Georgetown, 17 May--Development projects under a Guyana-North Korean economic and technical cooperation protocol are currently being reviewed at a meeting in Pyongyang, it has been officially announced here. Officials of the two countries are meeting in the North Korean capital May 14 to 24. Vice president for social infrastructure Hamilton Green is leading the local delegation to this second meeting of the Guyana-Korea joint commission. Construction of a mini hydro power scheme at Eclipse Falls in the Northwest District is among matters being discussed, as preliminary work on the project has already been completed, including the designs, a senior government official said. Another project coming out of the commission is a 400-bed teaching hospital, cement and steel for which have already arrived in Guyana from North Korea. The two countries are also cooperating in mineral exploitation and the construction of an irrigation project at a giant agricultural development scheme 40 miles from Georgetown. The current session of the Guyana-Korean joint commission is the second since it was established at the end of bilateral discussions between President Forbes Burnham and Korea's Kim Il-song in December 1983. The inaugural meeting of the commission was held in Georgetown in February last year. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1919 GMT 17 May 85 FL]

DRUGS ACTIVITY--Georgetown, 20 May--Guyana is being used as a transit point for narcotics destined for North America, chief of the Guyana police narcotics squad, Henry Chester, has said here. Figures showed that in the first three months of this year alone, authorities seized 4,000 pounds of marijuana and a half pound of cocaine. Some 70 arrests were made for possession of both drugs. Superintendent Chester said Guyana police are now using aircraft to detect marijuana cultivations in the hilly and forested parts of the country. Thus far this year, the police have destroyed several acres of marijuana which would have yielded drugs with a street value in excess of G2.5 million dollars (one G dollar; 23 U.S. cents). Authorities here believe Guyana is being used increasingly to transship narcotics to North America because of the crackdown against traffickers in other parts of the hemisphere. Meanwhile, three Guyanese police officers are due in Barbados this week to conduct investigations into the arrest of a Guyanese national for possession of more than 900 pounds of marijuana. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1839 GMT 20 May 85 FL]

MEXICO

CT DOCUMENT URGES PARTIAL MORATORIUM ON FOREIGN DEBT

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 29 Apr 85 p 2-A

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 28 April--President Miguel de la Madrid's economic cabinet is studying a partial "moratorium" (suspension) on the payment of the foreign debt and changes in the terms of the International Monetary Fund.

The telephone workers' leader, Francisco Hernandez Juarez, noted that the partial suspension was proposed by the Labor Congress [CT], and would consist of allocating under 20 percent of the foreign exchange revenue to the payment of the debt, assigning the rest for investment inside the country.

The leader remarked that the economic cabinet was analyzing changes in the criteria imposed on Mexico by the IMF, because "the country's economic potential is increasingly more limited."

Hernandez Juarez, who is a member of the Labor Congress leadership, claimed that President De la Madrid had expressed to labor leaders "his sympathy" toward those proposals during the visit which they paid him last Monday, to invite him to the May Day parade.

The workers argue that, "Contrary to national and foreign public opinion, the effectiveness of the measures for adjustment and recession have made it possible to negotiate for greater margins of flexibility in the structure and terms relating to the interest and payments on the debt."

The workers' proposals which the economic cabinet is studying are contained in a 43-page document which was published yesterday in the newspaper CETEME, official organ of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers].

Hernandez Juarez pointed out that the workers are not advocating failure to keep the commitments for paying the debt, but are demanding terms that will not be so detrimental to Mexico.

The leader maintained: "The definitive moratorium is a possibility that the country cannot yet confront."

He said that the workers are aware of the fact that there is in the United States Government a "predisposition toward the use of force," and hence it is

feared that that country might use coercive measures against Mexico if there were a definitive refusal to pay what is owed abroad.

In this regard, the workers' proposal notes that it will be necessary "to display, necessarily, a creative potential and a very firm strategy to prevent the restrictions on foreign trade from damaging the country's economic and political structure."

2909

CSO: 3248/380

MEXICO

JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH PANAMA TREATS CONTADORA, FOREIGN DEBT

PA270644 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 May 85 p A-11

[Joint Communique signed by Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid on 23 May in Mexico City]

[Text] At the invitation of Miguel de la Madrid, president of the United States of Mexico, Nicolas Ardito Barletta, president of the Republic of Panama made a state visit to Mexico from 21-23 May 1985, accompanied by a distinguished retinue.

Fraternal Cordiality

The presidential visit was marked by fraternal cordiality that characterizes the excellent relations between Mexico and Panam. The two presidents stressed the highly positive evolution of the bilateral relations, and reaffirmed their willingness to strengthen and expand the cooperation ties, for the reciprocal benefit of the Mexican and Panamanian peoples.

During their talks, the two presidents carried out a fruitful exchange of views regarding the main subjects of bilateral, regional and global interest.

Adherence to the UN Charter

The two presidents reiterated their firm adherence to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, and reaffirmed their conviction that the United Nations' prime responsibility is maintaining international peace and security, the peaceful solution of controversies, and international cooperation for development. They stressed that the 40th anniversary of the United Nations is a great opportunity for the international community to reaffirm the validity and importance of all the aspects of multilateral relations.

Condemnation of the Arms Race

The two heads of state expressed their concern over the escalation of international tensions, particularly over the threat that the arms race poses for the survival of mankind. In this respect, they condemned the

growing accumulation of nuclear and conventional weapons that, in addition to withdrawing funds that are necessary to attend to the development problems, represents a danger for world peace and stability. The Panamanian president expressed his support for the New Delhi Declaration signed in January of this year, and both leaders emphasized the urgent need of the countries that do not have nuclear weapons to join their efforts to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space and to promote a treaty for the total banning of nuclear experiments.

Dialogue and Negotiations to Overcome International Conflicts

In rejecting the confrontation between the power blocs that endangers international peace, the two presidents agreed that it is indispensable for the powers to resort to dialogue and political negotiations to overcome their differences, while at the same time they stressed the importance of the Geneva talks in establishing a climate of detente.

In analyzing the regional situation, they emphasized that the current process of political and economic rapprochement among the Latin American countries shows that they can find common solutions and conduct joint actions to overcome the current situation.

Solidarity, Pluralism, Cooperation, and Respect Among States

The two leaders stressed that the relations between the countries in the region should be based on solidarity, pluralism, cooperation, and unconditional respect for the principle of nonintervention, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of states.

The two presidents reiterated their firm support for the process of democratization in Latin America, which reflects the legitimate political and social demands of the Latin American peoples, and definitely contributes to strengthening the regional rapport. In this respect, the two leaders stressed that the strengthening of regional solidarity is an essential objective in their foreign policies.

The Contadora Group Efforts

The two presidents carefully analyzed the evolution of the Central American situation, and expressed their concern over the growing danger of the escalation of tension on the isthmus. They recalled that throughout the peace process promoted by the Contadora Group, in which the two countries participate together with Colombia and Venezuela, the group has insisted on the need to reach political agreements through dialogue and diplomatic negotiations, under dignified and just conditions for all the parties involved in the conflict. They also recalled the broad support that the international community and the international and regional forums have given the Contadora Group, which shows the viability and legitimacy of the group's negotiating efforts.

They noted that this support should be demonstrated more effectively, particularly by those countries that have links and interests in the region, which they urged once again to prevent actions that could endanger the regional peace efforts. In this respect, they stressed the advantageousness of resuming the Manzanillo talks.

Regarding the trade embargo and other economic measures against Nicaragua, the two heads of state reiterated their conviction that economic pressures are incompatible with the Contadora Group's objectives, and with the regional peace efforts. In this respect, they reaffirmed the obligation of all states to strictly observe the principles and norms of international law, particularly those established in the UN and OAS Charters.

Encouraged by the progress achieved by Contadora, which has helped to prevent a further aggravation of the conflicts, the Mexican and Panamanian presidents reasserted their full willingness to continue working for peace and concord in Central America.

Vigorously rejecting warlike and force solutions that would bring about fatal consequences and useless suffering for Central American peoples, the presidents expressed the need to put an end to destabilizing actions, the excessive accumulation of arms, preparations for war, and the pressure measures that seriously hamper the Contadora tasks.

The presidents indicated that the firm and full expression of the Central American peoples' willingness is indispensable to completing the regional peace process, particularly regarding the fulfillment of political commitments made during the Contadora negotiations. Stressing the progress achieved recently during the meetings of Central American plenipotentiaries and Contadora deputy foreign ministers, the presidents underlined the need for unconditional respect for the nonintervention principle as well as for giving due consideration to the importance of fostering national reconciliation processes.

International Economic Crisis: It Affects Developing Countries

After examining the international economic crisis that has seriously affected developing countries--particularly those of Latin America--the two presidents reasserted that the interdependence and interrelationship of world economic problems makes it imperative for the international community at large to actively participate in the design and execution of measures to overcome prevailing obstacles. It is also imperative that the various factors that determine economic development be examined within their context, particularly those related to international monetary, financial, and commercial matters.

Recognizing the importance of the effort carried out by Latin America to confront the crisis through adjustment and sacrifice measures, the two presidents expressed their concern over the limitations that the current terms to solve the crisis impose upon the social and material welfare of the region peoples, thus reducing considerably the possibilities for these people's development.

Considering this, the presidents agreed that it is indispensable to distribute the cost of the crisis fairly and equitably among industrial and developing countries, keeping in mind the need to work for a solution without neglecting the Latin American countries' demands for economic and social growth, job generation, and integrated development.

Foreign Debt Problems

Analyzing the problems related to the financial and monetary situation and the progress achieved by the countries that participated in the Cartagena Consensus, the two presidents agreed to stress the seriousness of the foreign debt problem and its consequences on plans for development. For this reason, they expressed their full support for the initiative of carrying out a political dialogue between creditor and debtor countries to overcome the limitations inherent in negotiations with international banks and adequately examine all the political, economic, and social consequences of indebtedness and the adjustment programs of Latin American countries.

Latin America's Economic Integration

Considering the importance that Mexico and Panama attach to the strengthening of the economic integration process in Latin America, the two presidents reassured their support for the various economic cooperation regional organizations as mechanisms for the identification and execution of common interest actions that make a contribution toward the region's efforts to overcome the economic crisis.

Because of this they reiterated their support for the regional consultation, coordination, and cooperation activities carried out by SELA. They expressed their desire to keep in touch to present new directions to SELA in the framework of SELA's 10th anniversary.

The presidents expressed their satisfaction over the results attained so far by the Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America, CADESCA, and reiterated their willingness to continue their contributions toward the orchestration of the work program.

Discussing energy matters, the presidents agreed to continue to actively participate in OLADE actions, particularly the orchestration of the projects included in the Latin American Program of Energy Cooperation.

Regarding the San Jose agreement on energy, they pointed out its importance for regional cooperation and its benefits for Central American and Caribbean countries.

Support for Panama's Cause

President Arditto Barletta referred to the progress attained during the execution of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties regarding the Panama Canal. They stressed the importance of Latin America's traditional support for

Panama's cause as an expression of regional solidarity so that such treaties can be fulfilled fully in accordance with the letter and spirit of the agreement.

Bilateral Economic Relations

Examining the bilateral economic relations, the presidents mentioned the positive progress achieved in this sector and asserted their firm determination to exert the greatest efforts to strengthen the economic cooperation links in all the sectors.

In reviewing the commercial exchange between the two countries the presidents underscored the need to step up the adoption of new mechanisms that may contribute to increasing and diversifying their reciprocal commercial activities. In this regard, they were pleased to witness the signing of a bilateral partial agreement--made within the framework of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty--by the respective commercial delegations, the purpose of which is to step up the Latin American integration process and strengthen the relations between these two countries.

Seeking to step up the progressively increasing scope of this treaty, the two presidents considered it convenient to seek close collaboration and appropriate coordination between their respective commercial authorities to organize commercial promotion events such as seminars, fairs, and missions [misiones]. In this regard, they congratulated each other on the positive results obtained during the "Central America in Mexico" exhibition held in Mexico City during the month of March and the seminars held simultaneously on Central American trade--events in which Panama actively participated.

Cooperation Agreements

The presidents asserted their satisfaction over the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute and the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute during the visit, which will contribute to promoting bilateral trade.

Given the possibility of increasing the reciprocal trade activities in the short term, the presidents instructed the corresponding financial organizations to step up the establishment of a \$10 million credit line offered by the Mexican National Bank for Foreign Trade to the Latin American Export Bank (BLADEX) to facilitate the financing of export operations for capital assets and services to the Panamanian market.

Seeking to substantially strengthen bilateral economic relations, the presidents considered it of priority interest to immediately explore the possibilities for collaboration between government organizations or, through international bids, to jointly carry out projects of mutual interest.

Given that it is considered necessary to analyze the cooperation actions started so far, as well as to analyze new mechanisms that will allow the two countries to establish closer relations, the presidents asserted their intention to revitalize the Permanent Mixed Commission. Consequently, it was decided that a meeting will be held soon to evaluate the two countries' relations.

The presidents asserted their satisfaction over the signing of a basic scientific and technical cooperation agreement between the two countries, as an instrument to strengthen and expand relations in this sector and promote their economic development. The two presidents underscored the importance of the conclusions reached on the topic during the third meeting of the Mixed Commission for Cultural and Educational Exchange, held in Mexico last 3-4 September, and decided to encourage full abidance by the program adopted on that occasion. In addition, they underscored the broad complementary prospects in the investigation sector, in priority areas of mutual interest.

Cultural Exchanges

The two presidents agreed to give high priority to increasing cultural and educational exchanges in the general context of the bilateral cooperation, convinced of the important contribution this makes toward strengthening the traditional links of friendship which exist between the two peoples. They considered that it would be useful for competent institutions within their governments to exchange information and experience concerning professional training in the international relations sector.

The presidents underscored the need to define the criteria of a Latin American participation in the commemoration of the fifth centennial of the meeting of Two Worlds, which will be aimed at analyzing the problems of peoples in the region and the Iberian worlds and will seek to advocate significant actions for cooperation in the middle and long terms.

Communication at the Highest Level

The two heads of state underscored the satisfactory results obtained from their meeting. They reiterated their decision to continue maintaining political communication at the highest level along with the exchange and cooperation between Mexico and Panama, as an expression of the Latin American spirit which encourages their relations, since it is the same spirit which today increases the capacity and strength of nations in the region to counter the current challenges with solidarity.

President Nicolas Ardito Barletta thanked President Miguel de La Madrid for his hospitality and the attention he received during his stay in Mexico.

CSO: 3248/384

MEXICO

MADERO: ANY PRI-GENERATED VIOLENCE WILL RECEIVE LIKE REPLY

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 26 Apr 85 p 19-A

[Excerpts] Torreon, 25 April--Pablo Emilio Madero declared today that, so long as the official party causes violence, it will receive a similar response from the people, who are ready to fight in order to defend their vote.

The national president of the National Action Party [PAN] said: "We do not believe in violence, but the one who instigates it is the one who is in violation."

He said that talking about violence causes uneasiness among individuals, and it is only natural for people to react to the provocation.

Madero noted that, at a meeting which he held with President Miguel de la Madrid, he had told him "that he could attest," ensuring that if the people are provoked, they will respond in kind.

The PAN leader spoke before holding a private meeting here with candidates and leaders of his party in Nuevo Leon, Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosi, Baja California Norte, Colima and Coahuila.

He remarked that the government has been apprised of everything that PAN is doing, because it has sent its representatives, who are "leaking" good information on its activities.

He said that, for the next elections, the government is planning a fraud with revolutionary nationalist features.

He added that, if PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] has accused them of preparing "shock forces," it realized in advance that this was untrue; because the official party has very good information on National Action.

He observed: "They are lying knowingly, because they have very good information that is being leaked. The party and government representatives know what we are doing."

He commented that, at that same meeting, there might be someone representing the Secretariat of Government; and hence requested that at least true reports be transmitted.

"What the official party and its satellites have said is false; we are fighting in public squares with candidates and programs; the people's vote is our strength; we are not karate experts; we have no shock groups."

The meeting, which was attended by four of PAN's seven candidates for governor's seats, is part of the periodic board meetings being held to prepare a joint strategy for the forthcoming elections.

The candidates Fernando Canales Clariond, running for the governorship of Nuevo Leon; Adalberto Rosas, for that of Sonora; Salomon H. Rangel, for that of San Luis Potosi; and Gabriel Salgado Aguilar, for that of Colima, arrived especially for the meeting.

Representatives

The Nuevo Leon delegation for today's meeting included, besides the candidate for governor, Jorge Eugenio Ortiz and Jose Luis Coindreau, members of the regional steering committee.

Coming from Coahuila were: Alejandro Gurza, candidate for federal deputy; Jorge Zermenio, regional leader in the state; Eleazar Cobos, candidate for federal deputy and former candidate for the Piedras Negras mayor's office; Edmundo Gurza, former candidate for mayor of Torreon; and Deputy Antonio Garcia Villa.

In addition, there were the candidates for local deputy in Coahuila: Ricardo Garcia Cervantes, Pedro Madero Gamez, Luis Ramirez Ruiz and Andres Lomas Perez.

From Baja California, there were Feliciano Alvarez, regional leader in that state; and Eugenio Elorduy, former candidate for the mayor's office in Mexicali.

Representing Sonora, in addition to the candidate for governor, Norberto Corella and Carlos Amaya, regional leader in that state, attended; and for Chihuahua, Eduardo Turati, candidate for federal deputy, attended.

Present from San Luis Potosi was Guadalupe Rodriguez, in addition to the candidate for governor; and from Durango, the current PAN mayor of Durango, Rodolfo Elizondo.

Present from the National Executive Committee were Alejandro Canedo, Alvaro de Gasperin and Jose Angel Conchello.

2909

CSO: 3248/380

MEXICO

EPISCOPATE DEFENDS RIGHT TO SPEAK ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Mexico City DOCUMENTACION E INFORMACION CATOLICA in Spanish 2 May 85 pp 337-338

[*"Pastoral Guidance of the Mexican Episcopate With Regard to the Elections"; issued 25 Apr 85, Mexico, D.F. Note: Although the "Guidance" is the last item printed in the 2 May issue of DOCUMENTACION E INFORMACION CATOLICA, in the table of contents, which appears on the publication's cover, the document is listed out of sequence, being given the second position.]*

[Text] Introduction

The political elections which are approaching in our nation constitute an event of great national importance. Mexico's future is at stake in them, because the country's welfare is determined to a large extent when the citizens exercise their right to vote.

We bishops, in our capacity as pastors, cannot remain silent concerning this event, and hence we wish to offer a word of guidance to the Catholic faithful and to others of good will. At the outset, we give notice that we cannot and do not wish to identify ourselves with, or back any political party, group or system; however, because of our mission, we maintain the right to express ourselves in moral judgments and evaluations regarding situations, systems and ideologies.

I. Politics

Once again, we give a reminder that the dual meaning of the word "politics" is valid in the social sciences:

- a. Politics in the broad sense refers to the society's general welfare, and includes the realm of the fundamental values of the individual and the community. In this broad sense, politics is of concern to all the intermediate organizations such as trade unions, universities, etc., and, by the same token, is also of concern to the Church as a community, and to us bishops as promoters of the human, moral and Christian values that should inspire the temporal order.
- b. Politics in the strict sense is the action of groups of citizens proposing to attain and exercise public authority to solve the country's social, economic cultural and political issues, based on their own criteria and ideology. This

is the so-called "party politics." This area is not germane to bishops and priests, but rather belongs to the laity as responsible members of the civil society. They must participate in the establishment, organization and backing of the political parties, based on their criteria, ideology and strategies for achieving their legitimate goals.

II. Criteria

The responsible exercise of the vote demands bearing in mind certain criteria, such as:

- a. The ideology upheld by each party,
- b. The program that it intends to carry out,
- c. The ability and moral quality of its candidates,
- d. The reasonable confidence that those who come to power will uphold the fundamental rights of individuals and will seek the country's genuine good.

III. Citizens

We call upon all citizens, with a sense of responsibility and active participation, to reject the apathy that leads to abstentionism, to form a mature and upright civic conscience and to nurture optimism and hope.

The elections are a challenge to everyone, aimed at eliminating from our social life the vices of corruption, concealment of the truth, individualistic interest and all types of violence, oppression and threats. They are, in turn, a commitment so that individual guarantees will be respected and the actual results of the voting will foster unity, reconciliation and justice, and demand truth and freedom for the citizenry, based on a legitimate pluralism.

IV. Authorities

We trust that the public authorities will, as they have already pledged, guarantee and ensure: the giving of freedom and support to all the political parties alike; placing at the parties' disposal the news media required for free and truly democratic elections; and respecting the votes of every party. We also give a reminder that the vote must be free and secret.

V. Youth

We address the youth of Mexico in particular, urging them to assume their responsibility with the conviction that "the youth belong to the future and the future belongs to the youth." It is up to them to construct a more just and fraternal Mexico, in which integrity, truth and peace will prevail, and where the dignity of the individual will be appreciated in the light of authentic human and Christian values. The Pope has told you: "This is not the time for indecisiveness; this is not the time for absence or lack of commitment.

It is the time for the daring, for those who have hope, for those who aspire to live fully in accordance with the Gospel and for those who want to make it a reality in the present-day world and in the history to come."

On the other hand, it is a serious, critical responsibility for adults and institutions to offer the youth a political electoral process as a pure and honest legacy. In this way, they will form an authentic political conscience.

Conclusion:

We give a reminder that the citizens' civic and political obligation does not end with the vote and its proper defense. It is necessary to continue acting responsibly, performing their own tasks and redirecting the action of those in power through the proper channels of expression.

We ask of everyone a generous effort to achieve national unity and to preserve our people's historical and cultural identity. In this way, we shall be able to construct a Mexico which will look confidently toward the future.

We harbor the firm hope that this brief pastoral guidance will, despite the crisis of values that our nation is experiencing, be received with an open spirit and serve to seek the good of all Mexicans at the present time. We offer our prayer that the forthcoming elections will take place in an atmosphere of responsibility, respect and peace.

Mexico, D.F., 25 April 1985.

On behalf of the Bishops of the Mexican Republic

Sergio Obeso Rivera, Archbishop of Xalapa, president of the CEM [Conference of the Mexican Episcopate]

Alfredo Torres Romero, Bishop of Toluca, secretary general of the CEM

Editor's Note:

The preparation of this document took approximately a year. It had a minimum of six drafts. As our readers may observe, every word, every sentence must be thought out, and the intensity of the notion that it contains can be felt. One of the first problems facing the bishops was their realization that their statement might evoke criticism, having been misinterpreted, and that it would be subject to misrepresentation, since each individual could interpret it based on his own viewpoint. Viewing the matter with calm objectivity and transcending differences, we can claim that it stands on clear, objective ground, which we would term ideal, advocating and proposing those principles which brook no controversy, and which every mind would have to accept after having been cleared of prejudice and grudges.

In all dioceses, it was presented to the mass media at 1200 hours on 25 April 1985. Here in Mexico it was presented by Msgr Ricardo Cuellar Romo, in his capacity as executive secretary of the Mexican Episcopate. We suggest that our readers and subscribers give this document widespread dissemination.

2909

CSO: 3248/382

MEXICO

PAN OFFICIAL CLOUTHIER CALLS FOR COOPERATION WITH CLERGY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 May 85 'States' section pp 1, 2

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 10 May--The former business leader, Manuel Clouthier, called upon PAN [National Action Party] members to collaborate with Catholic priests for the purpose of creating public awareness, not on behalf of a single political party, but rather to change the system.

He remarked that the Church must participate in the political change that the country requires, to make it peaceful, and could play a very important role in this respect.

During a lecture delivered to PAN members, the former head of the Employers Confederation and of the Business Owners Coordinating Council predicted that paternalistic government, fierce presidentialism and the single party system are about to succumb, "because the system is showing signs of lassitude."

He claimed that Mexico is on the threshold of a change, which could be violent or peaceful; because, as the former governor of Guerrero, Ruben Figueroa, says, in the Mexican political system "the herd of horses is very thin."

He commented: "The system has nothing living; it is tottering; and it can be defeated. It would more than suffice to pull the rug from under it, to make it collapse like a wet rag."

He expressed the view that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] leaders cannot talk about social justice "when they are observed riding in their luxury cars with chauffeurs, even many who claim to be socialists."

He stressed that the Mexican political system has pursued an unconcealable process of state control; because at the beginning of the Lopez Portillo regime, there were 400,000 government employees, and at the end, there were more than a million.

He emphasized that the system could be beaten in the forthcoming elections, "because there are many empty political spaces which they want filled by mediocre, corrupt individuals; but we need not be intimidated."

2909

CSO: 3248/380

MEXICO

AUTHORIZATION OF 106 COMPLETELY FOREIGN-CAPITALIZED ENTERPRISES

FL241118 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2235 GMT 22 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 22 May (NOTIMEX)--The National Foreign Investment Commission has authorized the creation of 106 national enterprises with 100 percent foreign capital. This measure was adopted in order to attract direct foreign capital. A total of 67 of these transnational enterprises are backed by U.S. resources, the remaining 49 [figures as received] by capital from 17 other countries.

The document notes, however, that other enterprises were created between 1983 and 1985 with minority foreign capital. To these one must add the assembly enterprises located along Mexico's northern border.

This is stated in an economic report on the bilateral relations between Mexico and the United States published by the presidency of the republic. The document explains that enterprises with total foreign capital are being created in Mexico because after the 1982-1983 economic crisis, foreign investment dropped by 63.8 percent. As a result of this, many companies went bankrupt because not only did industrial expansion decline, but the state failed to receive tax revenues and the employment capacity was undermined.

According to the report released by the presidency, foreign investments totaling \$13.28 billion were made in 1984. This figure is 127.9 percent higher than that of 1983, and 55 percent higher than had been initially estimated.

After the United States, the other leading countries in the investment of 100 percent direct capital in national enterprises are Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Canada, Switzerland, and Panama. Smaller investments come from France, Belgium, Sweden, Costa Rica, Norway, the Bahamas, Argentina, Spain, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands Antilles.

The report notes that construction, reconstruction and assembly of transportation equipment, the electrical and electronic areas, machinery and equipment in general, chemicals, food products, and services are among the key economic areas into which direct foreign investment were funneled in 1983. This tendency continued in 1984, and again so far in 1985.

The document stresses that Mexico is definitely interested in foreign investment and the law on this subject is sufficiently flexible to allow even the establishment of enterprises with 100 percent foreign capital as long as their establishment benefits the country's interests.

CSO: 3248/389

MEXICO

BRIEFS

FIRST QUARTER TRADE BALANCE--The surplus in Mexico's trade balance has registered a marked decline of 42 percent during the first quarter of this year. The favorable balance of \$2,277,500,000 attained between January and March is considerably lower than the \$3,922,000,000 attained during the same period in 1984. Non-oil exports dropped 16.3 percent, oil exports dropped 8.6 percent, and crude oil exports dropped 10 percent. [Summary] [Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 May 85]

MEXICAN, FRENCH PETROLEUM AGREEMENTS--Mexico City, 15 May (NOTIMEX)--The Mexican and French Petroleum Institutes have signed a scientific, technical, and industrial cooperation agreement. French Energy Secretary Martin Malvy and Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta were honorary witnesses. The agreement provides the opportunity to take advantage of the two countries' petroleum experience to establish mutual cooperation. The document was signed by Jean Claude Blanancean of the French Petroleum Institute and Jose Luis Garcia from the Mexican Institute. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1749 GMT 15 May 85]

UNDOCUMENTED WORKER ORGANIZATION URGED--Yesterday, the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM) proposed that the Mexican Government promote the union organization of hundreds of thousands of national undocumented persons who are working in the United States. Through the CTM's top-ranking leader, Fidel Velazquez, the labor organization gave a reminder that undocumented Mexican workers have been receiving mistreatment in the United States for a long time. Velazquez Sanchez expressed the view that the United States ambassador to Mexico has the right and the obligation to "put his cards on the table," but remarked that Mexico wants to act honestly and demands that no "marked cards" be used. He noted that, at the last Mexican-United States interparliamentary meeting, a "cordial" atmosphere had been established, and expressed his confidence that the United States bill known as the Simpson-Mazzoli bill on migrant workers has been completely forgotten. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 May 85 pp 4-A, 30-A] 2909

2909

CSO: 3248/382

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

CONCLUSIONS OF GOVERNMENT, LABOR PRICE STUDIES CLASH

Willemstad AMIGOE in Dutch 25 Apr 85 p 3

[Text] Willemstad--"Does the Minister of Economic Affairs perhaps find himself in a situation of conflicting interests, seeing that he is a major importer on Aruba? Or is there perhaps some truth in the rumors that people from the Department of Economic Affairs will soon work for a big importer?" Union leader Ong-A-Kwie was wondering about this last night at the congress devoted to the problems of price increases. Ong-A-Kwie as well as Errol Cova sharply criticized both the Department of Economic Affairs and the central government. They advised the latter to hire other people if they cannot do a thorough study of the price increases and control prices themselves. Meanwhile the Department of Education has reported that according to a study of its own, prices have not gone up but, rather, have dropped an average of 3.96 percent. The Department also calls the Consumers' Organization's study "unscientific and generalizing."

Applause and cheers of approval repeatedly interrupted the passionate speech of Errol Cova, chairman of the Chamber of Unions. Koraal Specht would be filled to overflowing, he said, if on the Antilles everybody who steals from employees by means of price increases went to prison for that. "If price cuts are discussed before the elections, every political party is all for it," Cova said. After the elections, however, they never keep the promises they made. Like chairman Ong-A-Kwie of the Curacao Federation of Labor Unions, Cova addressed what were, according to the unions, strange happenings at the Department of Economic Affairs. They think this Department could do the same study as that of the Consumers' Organization and that of the unions for the sake of proving that prices can indeed drop.

It is not the first time, however, that a Dutch civil servant starts working for a local firm when his contract with the Department expires, as will happen again shortly, Cova said. Consequently, he said that the unions have been asking the government for a long time for a stipulation in the contract which would make this impossible, because in their opinion ultimately the employees are duped. He also had a cut at Prime Minister Maria Liberia-Peters because of her statement that prices cannot be controlled. If she cannot do it, then she should let people do it who can, Cova thought. "We want and demand that prices be cut," said the chairman of the Chamber of Unions, who added (as did Ong-A-Kwie) that he does not only have in mind the prices of food or drugs, but also those of water, electricity and mortgages. "If prices are not going

to be controlled effectively, we cannot accept further pay cuts; if there is nothing, you surely cannot get anything more," an emotional Cova said last night.

Union leader Ong-A-Kwie's speech addressed in detail the various studies of price increases and the possibilities of price cuts which the Federation of Labor Unions has made in the last few weeks. He said that the Federation of Labor Unions placed an order in the Netherlands, which was settled in the same way as that of a supermarket. If they retain a margin of profit of 25 percent on the products, then they would still be cheaper than what these products are sold for currently on Curacao. "If we, the Federation of Labor Unions, with our poor system of operations, can go to the trouble of requesting the information and doing a study, then surely the Department of Economic Affairs could do the same," Ong-A-Kwie said.

There was straightforward talk at the socio-economic summit conference, the union leader continued. He emphasized that the concluding report mentions very clearly that prices and rates must go down. Both Ong-A-Kwie and Cova made it very clear that the statements claiming that the unions are inciting the people to a repeat of the situation of 30 May 1969 are completely false. "We want an agreement based on negotiations. We want war around the table but not in the streets," said Ong-A-Kwie, while Cova said that there will be no repeat of 30 May because the unions also learned their lesson then.

Anna Alcantara of the Consumers' Organization spoke about the recent study it conducted. She denied statements to the effect that they do research in an amateurish fashion and retorted that the people who check on prices in shops often meet with serious opposition, are threatened or kicked out. She said, however, that the organization will continue its task, in part thanks to the enormous effort of a few homemakers and "tough guys." Next week they are also starting a study of the prices of medicinal drugs.

Meanwhile the Department of Economic Affairs has issued a press release in which it states that of the 45 products for which the Consumers' Organization checked prices, 12 have indeed gone up in price in the period between 4 March and 4 April, but that they have not gone up in all supermarkets. "Of the 12 products the prices went up in one, two or three supermarkets. The prices of those products that remained the same or went down in the seven supermarkets were not included by the Consumers' Organization," according to the press release. The Department berates the study by the organization and states that "the analysis of the publication which was done by the Department of Economic Affairs and the Statistical Office has shown that the percentages of the Consumers' Organization are, scientifically speaking, false and rather generalized." The Department's study of "no less than 588 prices" in 9 supermarkets "has shown that prices have not increased but, rather, have dropped an average of 3.96 percent in these supermarkets," the press release says.

12861
CSO: 3214/25

NETHERLANDS ANTILES

CURACAO: SHIPBREAKING OPERATION TO OPEN IN 6-8 WEEKS

Willemstad AMIGOE in Dutch 13 Apr 85 p 3

[Excerpt] Willemstad--Curacao International Steel N.V. is a new shipbreaking firm that will open in 6 to 8 weeks at Brion Shipyard. This firm will initially employ approximately 45 people, while another 40 people will be taken on for part-time work. However, it is expected that within 2 years 200 people will be able to work in the shipbreaking operations.

A very satisfied administrator, Ronald Casseres, and government deputy Agustin Diaz said at a press conference held yesterday at midday that the entire project is complete and will be able to get under way shortly. The total costs associated with the shipbreaking operations amount to some 2.5 million guilders (\$1.5 million). Half of this amount was provided by foreign investors, while the remaining \$7.5 million [as published] came from a syndicate of local financial institutions. This syndicate, led by Banco di Caribe, consists of the Shell Pension Fund Foundation, Maduro & Curiel's Bank, the Development Bank of the Netherlands Antilles and of course Banco di Caribe itself. The government is guaranteeing this amount. Although the island council has yet to officially agree to this guarantee, administrator Casseres said that this will not present any problems in view of interest and the feasibility of the project. The largest participant in the firm is the Dutch company Hoekloos B.V. This company is guaranteeing the contribution of equipment, deliveries of oxygen and important technical know-how, the deputy from the Department of Economic Affairs, Agustin Diaz, announced yesterday.

Mr John Oakley is taking the initiative in the project. He said yesterday that Curacao was chosen ultimately for its infrastructure and port facilities. In addition, there is an oxygen factory on Curacao, which is an important component of shipbreaking. Curacao International Steel N.V. will initially produce approximately 75,000 tons of steel a year; however, the aim is to increase this to 200,000 tons within 2 years, whereby the firm will clearly have more jobs available. It is hoped that work can then be offered to 200 employees. At the outset, 6 to 10 people will come from abroad to provide technical know-how, but these people will train local workers to ultimately take over their activities. In principle, the shipbreaking operations involve buying up ships that are 20 to 30 years old, which are then broken up entirely at the so-called

Finger Pier at the Brion Shipyard. Part of the steel will be sold for reuse, part as scrap. In addition, the machinery will be reconditioned and possibly sold, as well as other materials present that may be of any value. AMIGOE has learned from a well-informed source that a contract has in the meantime been concluded with a Venezuelan buyer for 400,000 tons a year.

12271

CSO: 3214/25

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAYAN DAILY SCORES REAGAN'S MADRID REMARKS

PY101902 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 10 May 85 p 7

[Editorial: "Unforgivable confusion and omission"]

[Text] Of course we are not going to follow the example of the Marxists, socialists, ecologists and progressivists of all types who repudiated President Reagan throughout his European tour. We are aware that there is no other way to face the communists' domination plans and the totalitarian regime of Moscow which, without any consultation or opposition, could pour out all its resources to fuel the arms race, than with the White House's firm and determined stance. The contrary would mean suicide, and the victim would be not only the United States but the entire Western Hemisphere, including the democratic countries of the "Third World." But, precisely because we are aware of the problem and of the need to fully understand its scope, we cannot overlook the mistakes made by someone who holds a position of leadership which has such important projections and consequences, and on whose decisions mankind depends. Mistakes, contradictions, or rash statements, whatever they may be, undoubtedly reveal a shortcoming which we do not want to judge but which, undoubtedly, puts in doubt the seriousness with which matters are analyzed and the objectivity of the data on which actions are taken.

We would like to blame the press agencies for being inaccurate or for distorting the information on President Reagan's unfortunate confusion of concepts in statements made in Madrid. However, we have the text of the reports disseminated by EFE and AFP, and both contain the U.S. president's clumsy verbal slip. It would seem that, in his attempt to please some "progressivist" trend in assessing the problems that affect our continent, or maybe to help him achieve his own objectives during his European tour, President Reagan either lost his stirrups, or his saddle girth came loose.

Otherwise, it is hard to understand how he could have failed to distinguish between a country where there is a political ban and one where not only political parties with legal status, rights and duties, but even groups with political aims have freedom of action. We are not going to engage in annoying comparisons, since we respect the domestic affairs of other countries. However, we want to state that the Colorado Party, the Radical Liberal Party [PLR], and the Liberal Party [PL] function in Paraguay; that the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] functions but does not participate, because it does not wish to do so; that

other groups or factions of other political parties, such as the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], function but cannot participate, since they do not meet the legal requirements established by the constitution. In the case of the PDC, this group has not fulfilled the requirements of the Electoral Law, while the "authentic radicals" and the subfaction of the "MOPOCO" [Colorado Popular Movement], in addition to not having met the requirements established by the electoral law, have usurped the names of political parties legally recognized, thus openly violating the rights which the mentioned parties possess in their capacity as legal organizations, as established by the Electoral Law and the Civil Code. There is also the case of those groups that neither function nor are allowed to function by explicit prohibition of the constitution, such as the Communist Party and any totalitarian, fascist, Nazi, corporativists, etc, trend. We must not forget that Article No 117 of the constitution states that the "law will regulate the establishment and functioning of political parties in order to ensure their democratic nature," while Article No 118 categorically states that "the establishment or functioning of any political party, aiming to disrupt the representative, republican and democratic government system, or the plural party system, will not be allowed."

Within this framework the Paraguayan policy develops, the political parties act, elections are held, and the government authorities move. This is an institutional order within a state of law in which there are three powers: the legislative, executive and judicial branches, of which the first two are elective. In sum, this is the constitutional government that does not tolerate spurious typifications, or being given second-rate names, just because the head of its executive branch is a militaryman, as is President Stroessner, as was Eisenhower and also De Gaulle, or General Eanes of Portugal, whom President Reagan is now visiting. Quite the contrary, if there is something worthy of praise, it is the fact that under President Stroessner, who is president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces--as is President Raul Alfonsin in Argentina, only to mention one very current example--the military by no means have never exerted any pressure whatever on issues that do not concern their constitutional duties which, in keeping with Article No 42, are "to safeguard and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic."

Rashness and thoughtlessness cannot be excused in statements by a president whose success, authority and farsightedness concern the entire free world. Neither can such an extraordinary mistake as the one committed in the unfortunate statements made in Madrid by President Reagan, in which he included the name of Paraguay, be left "pending." Reagan failed to distinguish a de facto government from a constitutional government, a regime holding all power and implementing a political ban from a regime in which all powers are independent and an active and participative multi-party system rules. Although he made a slight distinction between what he termed the "military regimes" and the "communist tyrannies," his mistake was fundamental, as attested by the unforgivable fact that he failed to mention Haiti with its hereditary presidency for life. If it is a time to remain alert and safeguard democracy and the principles of liberty, let us not allow ourselves to be confused by demagogic rhetoric, aimed at pleasing those sectors whose attention is desired, to the detriment of others who remain alert because they share common points of view and do not want to play the game of ideological oppositions and political solutions.

CSO: 3348/727

PARAGUAY

NATIONAL ACCORD HOLDS RALLY IN ASUNCION

PY151755 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0052 GMT 15 May 85

[By Francisco Figueroa]

[Text] Asuncion, 14 May (EFE)--The Paraguayan National Accord, a group that opposes the regime of General Alfredo Stroessner, held a rally today in Asuncion that was attended by over 5,000 people. Alfredo Leon Rojas, president of the Christian Democratic Party and of the National Accord, said the rally was a protest against the dictatorship.

The National Accord, which is made up of Christian Democrats, Socialists, and the Colorado Popular Movement, decided to hold the rally on the 174th anniversary of the nation's independence to demand an authentic democracy to replace the false democracy of the Stroessner regime. There will never be democracy in Paraguay with Stroessner, said Waldino Ramon Lovera, president of the Colorado Popular Movement (MOPOCO), who delivered a speech at an antigovernment rally for the first time after unjustly living in exile for 25 years.

The demonstration, which is the fourth opposition rally since 1982 following three decades of the Stroessner regime, was held in the Plaza Italia in downtown Asuncion for 2 hours without any incidents, but under a discreet police watch.

Rojas Leon, president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), pointed out in his speech that in South America only Chile and Paraguay continue to suffer antipopular and antidemocratic government. He said that the National Accord has the support of all South American democratic governments.

Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and now Paraguay shouted the demonstrators, in reference to the democratic processes in those three countries.

The speakers several times mentioned Luis Alfonso Resck of the PDC, Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PRLA), and writer Augusto Roa Bastos, who were prohibited from returning to the country by the Stroessner regime when the government authorized the return of people living in exile in 1982.

The speakers demanded the return of the people living in exile, the immediate release of political prisoners, respect for human rights, the punishment of people involved in corruption and smuggling, freedom of the press, and the re-opening of the newspaper ABC COLOR, which has been closed by the government.

Euclides Acevedo, president of the socialist Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF), said that only 5,000 people attended the meeting because Paraguayans are afraid and because of the lack of clear proposals by the National Accord. Rojas Leon pointed out that the demonstration was a success, considering the internal political situation and the fact that the people have been frightened by the dictatorship. The Paraguayan people were exhorted to put fear aside, to struggle for their freedoms, and to recover their political rights. Lovera also said: Today is another sad day. We cannot happily celebrate another independence anniversary because the dictatorship remains in power, and we have not been able to regain our freedom.

CSO: 3348/728

20 JUNE 1985

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

JLRA LEADERS ARRESTED--A communique states that the national leadership of the Authentic Liberal Radical Youth (JLRA) "has denounced the outrage committed upon the party when Eusebio Basualdo and Victor Iglesias were arrested in the afternoon of 26 May in Rubio Nu District, Itacurubi de la Cordillera, during a meeting of leaders of that community." The JLRA communique adds: "The above-mentioned party supporters, who are active JLRA members, have been held completely incommunicado. They are currently being held in detention at the Caacupe police station. This action again shows, the complete helplessness of the honest citizens who are not involved in the regime's ranks since the opportunist puppets who are usurping our party's name have all guarantees to carry on with their activities." [Text] [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 May 85 p. 10 PY]

EXILES DEMAND ARMY OFFICER'S RELEASE--Buenos Aires, 22 May (AFP)--Paraguayan organizations in exile in Buenos Aires today demanded that Paraguayan Cavalry Captain Napoleon Ortigoza, who is the longest-held political prisoner in South America, be released as soon as possible. The Legitimate Paraguayan Confederation of Workers (CPTL) and the Paraguayan Movement of Solidarity, New Fatherland, today informed the press of the launching of an international campaign to report on the dramatic situation of this military compatriot and to achieve his release as soon as possible. The exiles have privately stated that Norway has offered to grant political asylum to Ortigoza in the event that the government of General Alfredo Stroessner decides to expel him from Paraguay. Napoleon Ortigoza was arrested on 17 December 1962 for plotting against Stroessner along with a group of officers. A lower military court sentenced Ortigoza to death, but later the sentence was reduced to 25 years in prison, the exiles stated. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1435 GMT 22 May 85 PY]

ARMS REPORTED THROUGH BRAZILIAN PORT--Brasilia, 27 May (EFE)--According to the latest issue of VEJA magazine, Paraguay receives heavy arms from South Africa and the ROK through the Brazilian port at Paranagua. Citing custom sources, VEJA notes that the arms, seated in containers, enter Paranagua port, located in Parana State and where Paraguay is exempt from custom duties. The sources added that electronics equipment and whiskey, products involved in the smuggling activity carried out in Paraguay, usually also enter through Paranagua port, which is 600 km from the border town of Foz de Iguazu. The information was published in the radar section of the magazine, which is usually devoted to exclusives. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1614 GMT 27 May 85 PY]

CSO: 3348/728

FRG EMBASSY DENIES INVITING LAINO--Regarding a report that has been disseminated by an international news agency that refers to Domingo Laino's trip to the FRG and stating that he will travel "within the next few days at the invitation of the federal government," the FRG Embassy in our country has addressed a polite note to the Information and Culture Under Secretariat of the Presidency. The note states: "This embassy has been authorized to confirm that Domingo Laino has not been invited by the federal government and that it does not know who invited him. Nor have the political leadership that are close to the parties that make up the federal government extended him an invitation." The note was submitted to the Information and Culture Under Secretariat of the Presidency on 28 May. [Text] [Asuncion APTRIA in Spanish 29 May 85 p 1 PY]

CSO: 3348/727

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

TEXT OF SIMMONDS SPEECH ON TRANSFER OF SUGAR LANDS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 30 Mar 85 p 12

[Text of speech by Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, in a radio and TV broadcast to the nation on 29 March 1985 on the Sugar Lands Agreement]

[Text] It is with a sense of pleasure, pride, and anticipation for the forward thrust of development in this country, that I announce to you that the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has concluded an Agreement which will legally vest the ownership of the lands of this country in the hands of the people.

Today, we have paid over to the former owners of the Estates according to the schedule of payment negotiated and agreed the initial sum of Eight Million Seven Hundred and Fifteen EC Dollars.

The policy of my Government has been and still is that the people of this country must no longer be a landless society. This Agreement concluded after many years of negotiations now plays a pivotal role in translating that policy into reality. I believe we can, with benefit to us all, briefly review in summary the history of this protracted land dispute. The Sugar Industry as it has been wont to do, fell into a serious state of decline in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The Government of the day, in 1970, requested assistance from the British Government to study the problem, and in August 1971, the Firm of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell was commissioned to undertake the study. Arising out of the study which advocated, among other things, the Central Management of all the Estates, the Government launched the Sugar Industry Rescue Operation - SIRO - to operate for three years 1973, 1974 and 1975. SIRO was therefore only an interim solution, and in 1973 efforts were made to establish longer-range solutions to the problems of the Sugar Industry.

THE SUGAR ESTATES ACQUISITION ACT 1975

On 29th January, 1974, The Sugar Association, representing the owners, offered to sell certain lands to the Government, and thus began the process of negotiation for

the purchase of the Sugar Estate Lands of this country. Efforts at negotiation were short-lived, however, because in 1975 the Government of the day acted to acquire the lands and to this end passed the Sugar Estates Acquisition Act, 1975, and formed the National Agricultural Corporation (NACO) to undertake central control of the lands.

The thrust of the attempt at Acquisition in 1975 was that the Government of the day would take all of the Estate Lands and pay in compensation the sum of Ten Million EC Dollars. The High Court ruled that the Acquisition was unconstitutional and therefore not lawful because, inter alia, the sum of Ten Million EC Dollars was not a fair price for the lands. The previous Government appealed to the West Indies Associated States Court of Appeal and lost, as on the 11th December 1978, the Court upheld the Judge's decision. They then appealed to the Privy Council. While waiting for the Privy Council Appeal to be heard they attempted to negotiate with the owners for the purchase of the lands. In July 1979 the negotiations broke down, with the Appeal still before the Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT CHANGED HANDS

In February of 1980, new life was breathed into this country as the Government changed hands, and my Administration accepted a legacy of problems including that of the Sugar Estate Lands. My Government decided to accept the decision of the High Court and the Court of Appeal. We therefore discontinued the Appeal to the Privy Council, which was filed on 5th March, 1979, and resumed negotiations in earnest.

It is relevant to note that by this time, the negotiations were now proceeding during a period of grave global economic difficulties which would impact adversely on our own financial position. World-wide economic depression set in, the pound sterling began, at first slowly, its downward trend, gaining momentum with each passing month. Here at home the Bank of Commerce collapsed holding significant Government Deposits. We proceeded with negotiations, nevertheless, because we realised that there was really only one critical issue outstanding even from as far back as 1975 and that was - how much? It was essential for us too, to establish that we were prepared to govern according to the Constitution, and chart a course for the economic development of the country, by establishing that St. Kitts and Nevis was a safe place for the property and investment of great and small, local and foreign.

SUCCESS IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM

Today we have succeeded where our predecessors have failed in solving the most critical problem that has plagued this country for at least 10 years. In order to place the issue in perspective, it must be remembered that the previous Government took over the lands initially with the consent of the owners, that in 1974 the owners offered to sell and the Government was willing to buy. The only question really was the price.

Between 1975 and 1979 the Labour Government purchased six Estate Units. They were:- Con Phipps, The Walk and Dry

Hill 599 Acres; Lynches and Lavington 548 Acres; Shadwell 193 Acres; Garveys 33.96 Acres; Mount Pleasant 243 Acres; Fountain Estate 39.851 Acres. There were, we will all recall some very notable and substantial exemptions.

1975 ACQUISITION ACT WAS NULL AND VOID

However, the 10 Million EC Dollars which they legislated for the remaining 24 estates in 1975 was declared inadequate and the Acquisition therefore was unconstitutional, null and void. Ten years later we have agreed the global purchase price for the following 24 estates: Belmont, Brighton, Brotherson, Buckleys, Caines-Willetts, Cappesterre (Estridge, Bellevue and Hope), Cranstoun and La Valle, Cunningham, Canada and College, Douglas, Farm, Godwin and Lamberts, Hermitage and Whites, Lodge and Upper Bourryeau, Mansion, Molineux, Pond-Needsmust, Pump, Sir Gillies, Stapleton, Stonefort, West Farm and Camp, Wingfield.

GLOBAL PURCHASE PRICE

The global purchase price agreed for the 24 estates comprising in excess of 20,000 acres is EC \$22 Million i.e. US \$8,148,148.00. The Agreement was set in motion by the initial payment of EC \$8 Million which was made today. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid in five years with interest at 6½% per annum on the unpaid balance. Full Title is to be passed to Government when payment has reached to the level of \$14 Million. The 8 Million Dollars for the initial payment was borrowed from the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) which is a worldwide, well established and well-known Bank.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT BREAKTHROUGH

I firmly believe that in settling this long outstanding matter, MY GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT BREAKTHROUGH WHICH WILL BE OF IMMEASUREABLE BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE. For the myriads of our citizens who occupy the village lands, much needed relief is at hand, because now they can get Title, which means they can now be eligible to get loans to repair and extend their properties. SPECIAL RATES WILL BE OFFERED TO THOSE WHO NOW OCCUPY VILLAGE LANDS WHICH FORM PART OF THE ESTATES IN QUESTION.

THE WAY FORWARD

Our agricultural diversification programme can now move forward with greater urgency. The World Bank in a recent report on our economy makes the point very strongly:

"A number of steps need to be undertaken to make agricultural diversification a reality. First, the Government needs to resolve the issue of compensation for the previous estate landowners and hence gain clear Title to the Sugar Lands. This will allow the Government to develop a long-term land-use programme that includes individual farm ownership of an allotment size sufficient to ensure an adequate annual return for a full-time farmer".

Our low-income Housing Programme which had been somewhat hampered by the non-resolution of this matter can now move forward. Already plans are in motion to resume building of low-income homes during this year. Our next immedi-

ate target is 120 houses in various areas of the country. The availability of land too will provide the opportunity for local entrepreneurs to undertake projects investing in the provision of accommodation for tourists. In May of this year a team from Canada will be here to negotiate with us an Air Services Agreement for the Institution of Airline Services from Toronto to St. Kitts. If this is to have the desired impact, we will need more rooms in the country as a whole. All of this points to an impending increase in construction activity, which already received a significant boost by our recent reduction in the price of cement.

LAND IS TRULY OURS, NOW

Fellow Citizens, the settlement of the 10-year-old problem of the Sugar Estate Lands is a significant and historical milestone in the development of this country. I am happy that my Government achieved it, and I thank all who helped to make it possible. Now we can truly say "This Land Is Ours".

CSO: 3298/703

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

EMIGRATION SURVEY STRESSES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL FACTORS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Apr 85 p 4

[Text] A full-scale survey into the causes and determinants of out-migration was launched throughout the Federation on Monday, April 22, according to Kittitian-born Professor Dr. Frank Mills of the College of the Virgin Islands.

The survey, commissioned by the Geneva-based Inter-governmental Committee on Migration and Georgetown University in the United States, is one of several now taking place in two other Caribbean territories and in many countries in Central and Latin America.

The first phase of the local survey was completed three

weeks ago with interviews in a small number of households. The final stage of the survey that begins on Monday and which continues till May 18 will be carried out in 40 enumeration districts throughout St. Kitts and Nevis.

The information to be gathered can be potentially useful to the federation, Dr. Mills stated. In the economic area, it is important to know the level of remittances that are received through unofficial channels, and how these remittances are used. And socially, it would be meaningful to determine to

what degree, if any, out-migration has contributed to a breakdown of family life and delinquency among youth. Answer to these questions could be used by government to formulate appropriate policy.

Official interviewers who have been trained to conduct interviews in the randomly chosen households all carry identification cards. Local coordinators for the survey are Mr. Oliver Knight of the Statistic Office in St. Kitts and Ms. Glyniss Liburd in Nevis.

The cooperation of all selected households in St. Kitts and Nevis is invited.

CSO: 3298/703

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

BRIEFS

FAR EAST TOUR--Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Arrindell, returned to the Federation on Thursday, after an official visit to the Republic of China. His Excellency headed the official delegation which included Senator the Honourable Ralph Gumbs and Miss Viola O'Loughlin. The party also made a visit to South Korea at the invitation of that country, and brief unofficial visits to Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. During his absence abroad, His Excellency appointed Mr. Vincent F. Byron M.B.E. as his Deputy, to perform the functions of his office. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Apr 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/703

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HUDSON-PHILLIPS WITHDRAWS FROM NAR LEADERSHIP RACE

Report on Statement

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 19 May 85 p 1

[Article by Camini Marajh]

[Text]

KARL HUDSON-PHILLIPS, political leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), said yesterday he would not be contesting the post of political leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

In a statement to the ONR's national committee at the party's Albion Street, Port of Spain, headquarters, Hudson-Phillips said: "I wish to announce publicly to the party that I will not allow my name to be submitted to the proposed convention of the NAR next month for the leadership of that organisation."

Stating that he had already made his intentions clear to party chairman Roy Augustus, leader of the DAC, A.N.R. Robinson and Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, Hudson-Phillips said: "I shall continue to lead the ONR into the battles ahead as long, of course, as the ONR wants me to do so. We have to ensure that the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago, above all, is preserved, not by confrontation or victimization but by the true spirit of unity and friendship and an equitable sharing of our country's resources."

Seemingly upset by "power charges" levelled against him, he said that it was the PNM propaganda machine which had created an unfavourable public image of him.

"It is popularly believed, and indeed, an Alliance Parliamentarian has recently said as much, that it is the greed for power of Karl Hudson-Phillips which has been holding up the progress of the NAR," he said. "This chorus was recently taken up by a feature writer in a daily newspaper on May 7, 1985, who accused me of redirecting the NAR's energies inward at a time when they should and could have triumphantly embraced the country."

He said there were several people in the country who held strong views against him although they have never seen or spoken to him. "They all allow the PNM propaganda of 1981 to brainwash them into believing that I am possessed of some lust for power that can only be satisfied by my becoming Prime Minister of the country."

"If honesty means that," he told the National Committee, "I plead guilty. For standing firm on principles, I plead guilty. If being a proud black man,

intent on keeping his head high, I plead guilty. But I need to remind them and all of us, that it was the same Hudson-Phillips who accepted full responsibilities for the PNM Public Order Bill of 1976 and who, in the highest traditions of our Parliamentary system, placed his resignation as Attorney-General at the disposal of the then Prime Minister. The records still show that he begged me to stay."

A true leader, he said, must understand that democracy was not a conflict between rivals for power. "Too many people," he said, "believe that as long as they have a majority in or out of Parliament, or in the Party, or on this or that committee, that they can do anything."

Leader of the ONR Contact Groups for the past 18 months, Hudson-Phillips said: "I think that I can safely say at this point that we and our colleagues in the Alliance have been able to hammer out the total frame-work of an agreement for our continued functioning as a unified opposition, which, I think, is in the best interests of the population of Trinidad and Tobago, and indeed, the Caribbean as a whole."

The ONR leader said he gained considerable inner strength from observing the statesmanship displayed by most of the persons forming the Contact Groups of both parties.

Hudson-Phillips, who expressed confidence that the basis for the road forward to unity had been put on a firm footing, told the meeting: "I feel the time is opportune for me to lay to rest, once and for all, a great deal of speculation and, indeed, sniping that has been taking place, not only within the ONR and from the Alliance but also from the public at large."

Advantage to Robinson

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 25 May 85 p 8 [date as published]

[Editorial]

[Text] **THE DECISION** announced yesterday by Karl Hudson-Phillips, political leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), that he will not submit his name for election as political leader at next month's convention of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), is a statesmanlike decision the entire country should applaud.

By so doing, Mr Hudson-Phillips has cleared the way for the virtually unanimous election of A.N.R. Robinson as NAR political leader, since Mr Panday has already indicated he would support Mr

Robinson for the party leadership, and as the candidate best suited to lead the joint opposition front against the ruling party.

And forestalling more criticism of the NAR for its apparent delay in fashioning a joint opposition platform, Mr Hudson-Phillips has also announced that "we and our colleagues in the Alliance have been able to hammer out the total framework of an agreement for our continuing functioning as a unified Opposition which, I think, is in the best interests of the population of Trinidad and Tobago, and indeed the Ca-

ribbean as a whole."

Mr Hudson-Phillips, who remains the political leader of the ONR, was undoubtedly influenced to take and announce this important decision — important in terms of clearing up the leadership squabble in the NAR and putting the organisation on a sound footing for the next general election — by the recent public opinion poll conducted for this newspaper by St Augustine Research Associates.

That poll, the initial results of which we published in our last *Sunday Express*, clearly showed a tide of public opinion running in favour of Mr Robinson as the man perceived most able to lead the fight against the awesome PNM voting machine if a general election were held today. Public opinion was also overwhelmingly in favour of the NAR, and not any separate opposition political unit, joining forces for the next election.

Mr Hudson-Phillips must, nonetheless, be congratulated for taking a decision which, for him, must not have been an easy one. Not that we believe, as Mr Hudson-Phillips says some of his critics believe, that his interest in political life was solely thirsting after power. He has acted quite properly in the past — offering his resignation as Attorney General over the damned Public Order Bill, refusing to sign the infamous undated letter of resignation as a PNM M.P.

And in his own political battles against the ruling party, Mr Hudson-Phillips

and his ONR did put up quite an impressive showing in the last general election, failing to win a single seat but polling more votes than the combined opposition. It is this attractive possibility that must have preoccupied Mr Hudson-Phillips in making up his mind about giving up political leadership of the NAR.

He has not yet entirely surrendered the identity and organisation of the ONR to the NAR but in declining leadership of the Alliance, he is clearly heeding the political winds, a very healthy sign in any practising politician.

Whatever one's political sentiments, all of this can only come as a welcome demonstration of selflessness, common sense and a show of unanimity among our historically divided opposition political parties. There is undoubtedly abroad in the land a great deal of dissatisfaction, and the ruling party is naturally the focus of that resentment. Mr Panday was right when he said last week though that the popularity now being enjoyed by the NAR has to be translated into votes.

It is precisely a demonstration of firm commitment to the national interest that will give the Alliance what it needs.

As for Mr Robinson, he, too, has some weighty decisions to make in the weeks and months ahead. If he does accept leadership of the NAR, and we expect he, like his political colleagues, will bow to public opinion, Mr Robinson must then look further

down the road to resigning as Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly in order to fight the next election. Fighting a country-wide general election campaign might also weaken the strong political base that Mr Robinson has built in Tobago.

CSO: 3298/706

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

POLL GIVES BREAKDOWN OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR NAR, LEADERS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15-18 May 85 and SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 25 May 85 [date as published]

[15 May 85 p 5]

[Text] The Selwyn Ryan Poll

THE St Augustine Research Associates were commissioned by the Trinidad EXPRESS to conduct a poll which would get a feel of the population with regard to a wide range of matters which affect their daily life including politics and economics.

Today we continue the results of that poll and the analyses drawn from it by the pollsters.

The struggle for opposition unity has been one of the consistent themes of politics of Trinidad and Tobago. In the post war period, these efforts expressed themselves in the formation of the United Front (1946), the Democratic Labour Party (1958), the DAC-DLP (1971), the United Labour Front (1976), and the National Alliance (1981), the Accommodation (1983) and now the National Alliance for Reconstruction which seeks to integrate the ONR, the ULF, the DAC and Tapia.

Our survey indicates that while most people were aware that some effort was being made to get the parties to work together many respondents still think in terms of ONR, DAC, ULF or the Alliance. This suggest that the NAR still has a great deal of work to do to make the name of the organisation a household word.

A new political organisation which would bring together Tapia, the ONR and ULF has been formed. Can you give the name of the organisation?

Response	Per cent
Correct Answer	57
Partially Correct	7
Incorrect Answer	32
No response	4
Total	100

How did respondents who were aware of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) evaluate it?

If aware of organisation, do you think that the formation of the National Alliance (NAR) is a good thing for the country at the present or are you opposed to its formation?

Response	Per cent
Good thing	54
Opposed	14
Don't know/Uncertain	18
No response	4
Total	100

There is still a measure of uncertainty as to whether the ONR should join forces with the parties of the Alliance to contest the 1986 general election (assuming of course that the elections are held in 1986). Should they join forces with or should they contest the election separately?

Response	Per cent
Join NAR	54
Contest Separately	22
Uncertain	15
No response	9
Total	100

Indians were more disposed to see the ONR join the NAR than were Africans or the mixed element.

	Afr.	Ind.	Mix.	Oth.
Join NAR	47	63	49	43
Contest Separately	28	16	27	19
Uncertain	15	16	12	19
No Response	10	5	12	19

Which of the putative NAR leaders does our sample prefer to see at the helm of the party?

Which of these persons would you like to see made Political Leader of the NAR?

Response	Per Cent
Robinson	33
Panday	19
Hudson-Phillips	14
Best	7
None	9
Other	2
Don't Know	12
No Response	4
Total	100

How did the various ethnic groups respond to this question? Was support for any leader ethnically specific or broadbased?

The figures indicate that 74 per cent of Panday's support came from Indians while 22 per cent came from Africans and 3 per cent from the mixed group.

Robinson's support was more broadbased — 40 per cent of his support came from Africans, 37 per cent from Indians and 11 per cent from the mixed element. Hudson-Phillips support was equally broadbased — 44 per cent of his support came from Africans, 40 per cent from Indians and 12 per cent from the mixed group.

If the data is analysed another way, we find that African support for Robinson exceeded that for Hudson-Phillips by almost 3 to 1. 38 per cent of the Africans in the sample chose Robinson, 14 per cent Best and 10 per cent Panday. The mixed group also plumped for Robinson in larger numbers — 38 per cent endorsed him compared to 17 per cent for Hudson Phillips, 9 per cent for Best and 6 per cent for Panday. With respect to Indians in the sample, 31 per cent supported Panday, 27 per cent supported Robinson and 12 per cent Hudson Phillips.

	Afr.	Ind.	Mix.	Oth.
Robinson	38	27	38	33
Panday	10	31	6	5
Hudson-Phillips	14	12	17	19
Best	11	3	9	5
None	12	6	17	19
Other	3	1	2	19
DK/N/R	12	20	11	0

[16 May 85 p 5]

[Text]

THE FEELING of the nation with respect to the personalities involved in politics was also tapped in the poll conducted by St Augustine Research Associates and commissioned by the EXPRESS. Today the results of those feelings are tabulated for our readers.

What did our sample think of some of our political leaders?

Leaders	Positive			Negative		
	Very fav	Somewhat favourable	Very unfav.	Somewhat unfav.	Uncertain	No res
Robinson	40	34	4	7	11	4
Panday	28	35	10	14	9	4
Hudson-Phillips	16	25	21	13	21	4
Mahabir	11	30	20	18	15	6
Best	8	34	8	11	30	9
Chambers	9	20	40	19	6	5
Donaldson	6	20	24	17	24	8

How do you feel about the performance of George Chambers as Prime Minister of the country?

Response	Per cent
Very satisfied	4
Satisfied	17
Dissatisfied	28
Very dissatisfied	42
Uncertain	7
Refuse to say	2

Given the extent of the dissatisfaction expressed for the Prime Minister Chambers, it is hardly surprising that that this would be deflected on to the party of which he is political leader.

If an election were held today and the NAR was fighting the PNM, which would you vote for.

Response	Per cent
NAR	59
PNM	17
Don't know	13
Refuse to say	10
Non response	1

When we look at the way in which various ethnic groups responded to the question, we find that only 26 per cent of the African in the sample said they would support the PNM while 48 per cent said they endorse the NAR, with the remainder expressing uncertainty or refusing to say.

Party	Support by Ethnic Group			
	Afr.	Ind.	Mix.	Oth.
NAR	48	70	59	57
PNM	26	7	26	19
Don't know	15	12	8	14
Refuse to say	10	10	7	10
Non response	1	0	0	0

It is worth noting that a substantial majority of the sample was of the view that a united opposition could defeat the PNM — 63 per cent were of this view compared to 21 per cent who still believed the PNM to be invincible.

Quite apart from which party or leader you would support in any forthcoming election, do you think that a united opposition party could defeat the PNM at the next general election?

Response	Per cent
Yes	63
No	21
Don't know	14
Refuse to say	2

[17 May 85 p 56]

[Text]

WOULD the People's National Movement fare better in the next general election, due in late 1986, with a new political leader? A man, or woman, that is, who could replace George Chambers as Prime Minister if the PNM won the next election?

This was one of the questions put to members of the public by St Augustine Research Associates in the poll commissioned recently by the EXPRESS.

Who we go put? is the question. Same old problem, assuming that party members really want to replace Chambers, who will then either resign or be removed in some kind of internal party coup.

Numbered among those who might succeed Chambers, those most frequently mentioned, are: Errol Mahabir, John Donaldson, Hugh Francis, and Overand Pädmore.

The question was: If Errol Mahabir were chosen political leader of the PNM would you vote for that party in the 1986 general election?

Response	Per cent
No	57
Yes	21
Don't know	17
Refuse to say	05

St Augustine Research Associates says these figures suggest the PNM would improve its performance by only four percentage points if it were to be led by Mahabir and that the disenchantment is not merely with Chambers but with the party as well. This is because in a previously published section of the poll it was indicated that 17 per cent of those interviewed would vote for the PNM; and since, as indicated above, this figure would be 21 per cent with Mahabir as leader, then support for the party would increase by only four

per cent in these circumstances.

Who were Mahabir's supporters? In terms of party status, 21 per cent of those who described themselves as neutral said they would support Mahabir, while 56 per cent said they would not, with the remainder expressing uncertainty or refusing to say.

Of those who declared themselves to be strong supporters or members of the PNM, 67 per cent said they would support Mahabir, compared to only 19 per cent who said they would not. Twelve per cent expressed uncertainty, and two per cent refused to say.

Of those who declared that they were members or strong supporters of the ONR, four per cent said they would support him, with six per cent of ULF affiliates giving a similar reply.

To what extent was the level of satisfaction with Chambers correlated with support for Mahabir? Of those who were "very satisfied" with Chambers, 13 per cent said they would support Mahabir, compared to 39 per cent of those who indicated they were merely "satisfied."

Of the 70 per cent who said they were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with Chambers, only 21 and 18 per cent respectively would switch back to the PNM if Mahabir were the leader.

To what extent was ethnicity a factor in the support expressed for Mahabir? Of the Africans in the sample, 28 per cent said they would vote for Mahabir, compared to 13 per cent of the Indians in the sample.

Sixty-six per cent of the latter said no, compared to 49 per cent of the former.

In sum, Indians were by and large prepared to wager on the NAR than on a PNM led by Mahabir.

[18 May 85 p 12]

[Text]

ANR ROBINSON, according to the poll conducted by the St Augustine Research Associates, is by far the most popular prospective leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction followed by Basdeo Panday, Karl Hudson-Phillips and Lloyd Best.

NAR supporters were asked the following question: If the NAR was led by either Panday/Best/Robinson/Hudson-Phillips would you vote for it? The responses were as follows:

**Response
Per cent**

	Robinson	Panday	H-Phillips	Best
Yes	78	63	58	54
No	11	22	29	28
Don't know	09	13	11	16
Refused to say	02	02	02	02

The figures, in terms of ethnicity, showed that the NAR does better consistently among Indians than among Africans, but Robinson does consistently well among both dominant groups as well as among the mixed and 'other' groups," the poll said.

Percentage supporting NAR according to the leader

	Robinson	Best	Panday	H-Phillips
Africans	74	52	39	45
Indians	80	61	85	67
Mixed/'other'	80	50	62	62

Members of the electorate were also asked the questions which of the following leaders, Panday, Best, Chambers, Robinson, Hudson Phillips, Donaldson and Mahabir do you think is:
a. best able to deal with the economic problems facing T&T today?
b. best able to run an honest government?
c. best able to run an efficient government?
d. best able to make you feel proud of being a Trinidadian?

The responses are as follows:

	A	B	C	D
Leaders				
Robinson	24	27	28	27
Panday	22	21	21	21
Hudson-Phil- lips	14	14	16	14
Chambers	10	11	10	11
Best	11	08	08	08
Mahabir	09	04	06	06
Donaldson	03	06	04	05
No Res./Don't Know	07	09	07	08
Total	100	100	100	100

What a further analysis of the figures reveal is that Panday was given high ratings by the Indians in the sample while the non-Indians distributed their choices among the other options; whereas 41 per cent of the Indians in the sample gave Panday the nod as the person best able to deal with economic problems facing Trinidad and Tobago, only 5 per cent of the Africans were of the view. Put another way, 83 per cent of those who chose Panday on this question were Indians while 17 per cent were African, mixed or other. The proportions were more or less the same on all other questions. Robinson's support based on the other hand was broader, though he did better among Africans than among Indians.

Whereas Panday consistently out-performed Robinson among the Indians in the sample, Robinson out-performed him and everyone else among the non-Indian element. Hudson Phillips however did well among the mixed element.

Best Leader for Economic Development	African	Indian	Mixed
Robinson	29	20	24
Panday	05	41	12
Hudson Phillips	13	12	21
Chambers	13	06	11
Mahabir	10	07	11
Donaldson	06	01	06
Best	14	10	08
Other/No Resp.	10	03	07
Total	100	100	100

Leader Making You Most Proud	Ethnic group		
	African	Indian	Mixed
Robinson	31	25	21
Panday	04	41	08
Hudson-Phillip	12	14	20
Chambers	16	06	14
Mahabir	04	08	08
Donaldson	08	01	08
Best	12	03	11
Other/No Resp.	13	04	10
Total	100	100	100

[25 May 85 p 3]

[Text]

GIVEN all that has happened between 1983 and 1985 in terms of reduced employment, increased taxes, perceptions of indifferent ministerial performance, the debacle in the Tobago elections and the re-validation and political regeneration of A.N.R. Robinson, it should hardly be surprising that there has been a gusty and precipitate swing away from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

This was the view expressed by Dr Selwyn Ryan in conclusion of the St Augustine Research Associates opinion poll, published in last Sunday's *Express*.

Said Dr Ryan: "Time will tell whether the PNM, which is now on a downward roller-coaster glide, has hidden and unspent political and economical reserves in its mattress to stave off a run on its voter bank or whether it can wave a deft magician's wand and once more snatch victory out of the jaws of apparent defeat."

Whether this happens or not, he said, would depend on both the PNM and the type of remobilisation which it must now deliberately seek to promote, and the NAR.

"The latter now appears to have settled the leadership issue in principle," Ryan said, "But as Panday has rightly

warned, popularity remains to be translated into votes, and let one never forget, seats as well. Votes do not always equal seats as the ONR discovered to its chagrin in 1981."

He recalled that in a SARA poll done in October 1983, 51 per cent of those sampled said they sympathised with the parties of the Accommodation, while 45 per cent said they would vote for the Accommodation if a general election were to be called.

Only 17 per cent specifically indicated that they would not, he said. Another 21 per cent were uncertain as to what they would do, while 17 per cent refused to say.

But in the St Augustine poll, the level of PNM rejection was very high in both sexes.

In terms of ethnicity, Ryan said, Indians have in the main rejected the ruling party (10 to 1) and would do so even if Mahabir were to be chosen as its leader. African support, he observed, was also shifting from the PNM to the NAR (2 to 1 in favour of the NAR).

Ryan, who referred to the Tobago House of Assembly Chairman as "the erstwhile traitorous deputy" said: "Robinson is unequivocally, the King of Kings" and the most highly preferred person to lead the NAR, the one deemed by most to be best able to deal with the economic prob-

lems facing the country, the one considered most likely to run an honest and efficient Government and the one deemed most likely to make people proud of being Trinidadian."

Support for Robinson was ethnically broad-based while that for Panday was more ethnically specific.

Although the sample was nationally and widely drawn, Ryan cautioned that "no forecasts are possible as to the likely outcome in terms of seats. In any event," he added, "the electoral boundaries are to be re-

defined and in the game of electoral cartography, any number can play."

The sample consisted of 676 persons (700 was aimed for), and was selected on a quota principle with multiple (over 75) sampling points.

Quota samples, according to Ryan, have potential biases as do other types of sampling procedures, but due care was taken to minimise these.

The quotas were established on the basis of the 1980 census and the achieved breakdowns were as follows:

	Poll	Census	Approx.
Sex female	48	50	"
Male	52	50	"
Race-African	42	42	"
Indian	45	42	"
Mixed	10	14	"
Other	3	2	"
Age 18-24	23	25	"
25-29	16	15	"
30-34	13	12	"
35-49	25	23	"
50-64	15	15	"
Over 65	8	10	"
Education level	3	Census	Not provided in this form
Illiterate	18	"	"
Primary	27	"	"
Some secondary	28	"	"
Completed sec.	7	"	"
Tech./Voc.	9	"	"
Some univ./higher insti.	8	"	"
Completed univ.			

The sample points were purposely chosen with an eye to past voting history, social class and ethnicity and was drawn from 30 constituencies in Trinidad. Tobago, Ryan said, was not sampled since the electoral outcome there is predictable.

The figure given [article ends here as printed]

above indicates that there were some shortfalls in the allocated quotas, particularly in sex, race, and in the over-65 age group, but these were well within the tolerable limits, he said.

"The directors of the survey," Ryan added, "are satisfied that the sample represents a rea-

sonable microcosm of the adult population and feel certain that the results can be considered to be an acceptably accurate reflection of political predisposition as they expressed themselves in April-May 1985.

In the final analysis, however, one must recall

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PARTIES REACT TO POLL; NAR QUEST FOR UNITY CONTINUES

PNM Reaction

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 May 85 p 1

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

THE ruling People's National Movement is not bothered by an opinion poll which suggests that the party would lose hands down in a general election if one were called today.

This from the party's confident General Secretary Alvan Quamina, who suggested in an interview with the EXPRESS yesterday that the party had its own means of taking the "political temperature" of the country and that was at odds with what the EXPRESS poll suggested.

Quamina, from his desk at party headquarters, Balisier House, Port of Spain, said that the PNM "has not given itself to that kind of opinion polling," talking of the poll done for the EXPRESS by the firm of St Augustine Research Associates.

The poll, results of which were carried in the Sunday EXPRESS this week, said the PNM would

get 17 per cent of the popular vote if an election were called now, while the National Alliance for Reconstruction would win with a 59 per cent share of the vote.

Quamina said yesterday that in a society such as Trinidad and Tobago, it was difficult to prepare and administer opinion polls. "There are various intangibles and variables which we feel we can use to come to grips with the mood of the people. By direct interfacing, which we prefer to the formal kind of surveying where people are asked to answer questions on a sheet," he said.)

"This is not to cast aspersions on the persons involved in the polling exercise," Quamina said, adding that the PNM has never commissioned those kinds of scientific opinion polls.

He said the party which has won every general election in

Trinidad and Tobago since 1956, preferred instead the kind of contact which was available at the

community and constituency level, which was then brought to the General Council.

The EXPRESS poll suggested, also, that Prime Minister George Chambers would lose in a popularity contest among political leaders in the country.

He ranked way behind A.N.R. Robinson, Karl Hudson-Phillips, Basdeo Panday, Lloyd Best and External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir, one of three deputy political leaders in the PNM.

Asked about this yesterday, Quamina said that Chambers had been acclaimed as political leader of the party at the party convention in 1981 "by one of the largest conventions in the history of the party." He added that in the general elections which followed, the party won 26 of the 36 seats in Parliament, "its largest plurality ever."

"There has been nothing within the party to suggest that this has changed," Quamina said.

Robinson Comments

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 May 85 p 1

[Text]

A.N.R. Robinson, political leader of the Democratic Action Congress and Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, said yesterday that he could not ignore the

mood of the country which suggested that he would be preferred as the leader of a united opposition party in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I am sobered by it all," Robinson said from his home in Scarborough, in response to questions about his reaction to the results of the opinion poll which gave him the nod as the preferred leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

"I think that I cannot disregard such an obviously widespread sentiment. Broadly speaking," Robinson said, "the findings do accord with the conversations I have been having with persons at various levels," adding that they were consistent with the disillusionment

of large sections of the population in the current administration.

Robinson got 33 per cent of the vote among persons sampled in the latest opinion poll, done for the EXPRESS by St Augustine Research Associates, as the choice for political leader of the NAR. Opposition leader Basdeo Panday got 19 per cent of the poll and ONR leader Karl Hudson-Phillips, 14 per cent.

Robinson also got a 74 per cent rating from the poll respondents in their replies to questions about how favourably they regarded political leaders in the country. This was the highest ranking, followed by Panday (63), Hudson-Phillips (41) and External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir (41). Prime Minister George Chambers, political leader of

the People's National Movement, got a 29 per cent rating on this question.

Robinson said yesterday that he did not think, however, that the issue of the leadership of the NAR was a critical one at this point in time. He said he thought the issue would be settled within the time frame set by the NAR, which was the end of June.

"My concern is that the national interest should be paramount at all times," Robinson said, adding that the responsibility of the leadership of the NAR at present was to live up to the expectations of the people, as expressed in the results of the poll.

"The question is for the NAR to solidify itself and to respond to the aspirations of the people," he said.

ONR-NAR Negotiations

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 May 85 p 3

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

LENNOX RAPHAEL, public relations officer of the Organisation for National Reconstruction, has sought to allay fears about the protracted negotiations between the National Alliance and the ONR towards the formation of a firmly cemented coalition to beat the People's National Movement in the next general election.

In an interview on Monday with the EXPRESS, Raphael stated that in his opinion the talks, going on now for seven months, have not taken a particularly long time and are progressing according to schedule. The talks are to come to an end by mid-year, 1985.

"The public must realise that what we are about is really their business," Raphael opined. "We are trying to create something grounded in reality and must realise the necessity to ensure this unity endures."

The chief issues under discussion are: a constitution for the NAR, which will include guidelines for the election of a political leader and other party officers; the hammering out of a common policy and programme; and the distribution of seats among the different "units" or parties.

"The contact group, composed of representatives of each party," Raphael explained, "meets once or twice a month, sometimes at the office of the Leader of the Opposition and sometimes at ONR headquarters."

"I would say the two main figures in the negotiations," said Raphael, who also attends these meetings, "are Panday and Hudson-Phillips, and something important has been agreed upon at every meeting. Up to now we have produced a draft party constitution and we are half-way through the common policy and programme."

At the first NAR convention, which will be of a "federal" nature according to Raphael, there will be 1,000 delegates, 500 representing the Alliance and 500 representing the ONR.

What will the ideology of the NAR be, some people have asked, and how have Hudson-Phillips and Panday managed to come together? "The overwhelming ideology of both Hudson-Phillips and Panday," Raphael explained, "is that they are both patriots. The main concern will be to get the country going again after such a long time, to get it back on the tracks."

This apparently will not involve any dramatic change in the ideological direction that obtains at present.

As far as the distribution of seats is concerned, the main idea is to produce a method by which "to determine who is better placed where to win. It won't be based on personality," said Raphael.

"The ONR has always been geared to be a national party," Raphael observed, "not just to represent one sec-

tion of people."

Asked, finally, whether the NAR would be prepared for a snap election now with the negotiations at their present stage, Raphael quipped: "Right now, as Karl has said, the NAR is better prepared for an election than the PNM, and we enjoy a more credible position in this society: people are prepared for us."

Onus on NAR

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 May 85 p 3

[Text]

THE leaders of the National Alliance for Reconstruction will have to take the blame if there is no change of government in Trinidad and Tobago in 1985 or 1986.

So said Surujrattan Rambachan, deputy political leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction, at a public meeting at the Tunapuna Shopping Centre last Tuesday evening.

"The time has come

for forthrightness and sincerity," Rambachan said. "In the past, opposition leaders in this country had made the serious mistake of listening, not to the people, but only to their own inner voices. That has to change now."

He said the only hope for this country now is for the NAR to replace the PNM at the next general election and it is the responsibility of the leadership in the NAR to ensure that happens.

"I believe Selwyn

Ryan has mastered the art of opinion polls," he added, "and his latest poll shows clearly that 59 per cent of the voters of this country support the NAR against the PNM. I agree with Basdeo Panday that the NAR leaders now have to listen to the people and make that change."

Rambachan said he has personally spent several years in politics, though he is still a young man, and feels something has to happen now.

Decline of PNM

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 May 85 p 4

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

THE official party line insists that the ruling People's National Movement is alive and kicking, but privately, long standing active members and disgruntled, non-functioning members are talking of the decline of the PNM.

In the wake of the EXPRESS opinion poll published this week, which put the PNM way behind the combined opposition if a general election were called today, party members are saying privately that the party is in trouble indeed.

"The poll could very well be true if members, particularly some ministers, behave the way they are doing at the present moment," one party member said this

week.

Another high-ranking party member, a member of the party's General Council, confirmed what other members had been saying for months now, that the principles of the PNM are being abandoned by the Cabinet in their running of the country.

"The party is dead and the country is being run by some ministers, with little or no regard to the principles of the party," one member said.

No one wants to be quoted, naturally, but the view is being posited that the affairs of state are being handled and manoeuvred from the Cabinet by an inner circle of ministers most favoured by Prime Minister George Chambers. It is said that Industry and Commerce Minister Senator Wendell Mottley, a new boy in the PNM front ranks, is one of the men on the inner circle, a matter which is causing consternation in the ranks and file of the party.

It has been said that Mottley is one of the few ministers who maintains a social, home-basis relationship with Chambers.

"That is not true, Mottley said when asked about this," insisting that his was no special relationship with Chambers, nor was it any different from Chambers' relationship with other Cabinet members.

Party rank and files have also expressed dissatisfaction with the recent Cabinet reshuffle, indicating that it was motivated more by Chambers' own political considerations, rather than by concern for new momentum in national

affairs.

Alvan Quamina, General Secretary of the party, insists that there are no deep divisions or cleavages within the party and that Chambers, in his capacity as Political Leader, is effectively in charge in the position. Works Minister Hugh Francis has hinted on several occasions since then that he is leaving active politics after his present term expires and other ministers have also been saying privately that they would throw in the towel the next time around.

Already, as well, intense jockeying is taking place within various constituencies with incumbent MPs and leading candidates fighting off challenges by other members for places on the party ticket for the next general election.

The meet the party tour enunciated by Chambers which is set to begin some time later this month, is said to be an effort by the political leader to meet and treat with all 36 constituencies in the party and listen to their views, in an effort to rev up the party machinery and to revive the spirit of party unity.

CSO: 3298/707

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NEW TOBAGO WEEKLY NEWSPAPER TO BE INAUGURATED

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 May 85 p 48

[Text]

A NEW Tobago newspaper is to be launched within the next two weeks. The following statement was issued by the chairman of the new venture, Deborah Moore-Miggins:

"The Board of Directors of the Tobago Newspapers Ltd is extremely pleased to announce the launching of the *Tobago News*, a weekly newspaper which is intended to serve the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

We feel that the *Tobago News* is destined to be a permanent feature on the media landscape in Trinidad and Tobago. It represents the culmination, (and the perfection, we hope) of various efforts to establish a reliable newspaper in Tobago. In fact, the saying, 'Try until you succeed,' has never been more aptly demonstrated than in the formation of the Tobago Newspapers Ltd.

Another reason which accounts for the board's confidence that the *Tobago News* is here to stay is the participation of the Trinidad Express Newspapers Ltd in the venture. This bond between the *Tobago News* and the *Express* bears silent testimony

to the *Tobago News'* policy of commitment to the unitary statehood of Trinidad and Tobago. Never has a call to become involved been responded to with such alacrity and zeal, and at the outset, the board wishes to put on record its thanks for the immeasurable contribution the *Express* has already made and will no doubt continue to make to the company both in terms of technical services and expertise.

Mr Compton Delph, the Tobago correspondent for the *Express* has agreed to edit the paper, thereby bringing his wealth of experience and professional skills to bear in its production. We do appreciate the tremendous sacrifice that this commitment entails.

To our potential readers, we say you can rest assured that *The News* will be available to you no later than Friday morning of every week of the year. It will carry the latest news out of Tobago and elsewhere, as well as interesting features and three pages of sports news.

The News will fill a void in your life. In fact, you will soon become addicted to it. Your week will never be the same without it.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CENTRAL BANK REPORT DETAILS CONTINUING ECONOMIC DECLINE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text] OVERSEAS borrowing by Government amounted to \$604.4 million last year, pushing up the overall public sector debt by more than five per cent to \$4,922 million in 1984. Loans included \$340 million on the Japanese market and a \$170 million bond issue in the United Kingdom.

This information is contained in the Annual (1984) Report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago which highlights the continuing slide of the national economy.

The report pinpoints some disturbing aspects including:

--Contraction of the economy in 1984 when real gross domestic production (GDP) fell by 7.4 per cent following a drop of 5.2 per cent in 1983.

--Unemployment shot up from June 1983-June 1984 from 11.1 per cent of the labour force to 12.8 per cent. This put an additional 11,000-plus workers on the breadline for an overall total of 60,300 persons unemployed by mid-1984.

--Prices gauged from the Index of retail prices moved up by 13.3 per cent during the year. Mild comfort that the figure was 16.7 per cent in 1983.

--Adverse fiscal operations were reflected by a \$1,393 million deficit. This was, however, a sharp reduction from the \$2,344 million deficit in 1983 and the record deficit of \$2,652.4 million in 1982.

--Balance of payments deficit in trading totalled \$1,764.5 million last year--compared with deficits of \$2,161.6 million (1983) and the much lower \$527.1 million in 1982.

Reserves Down

--Foreign reserves fell to \$2,835 million at the end of the year, \$2,163.5 million less than in 1983 and far removed from the extremely more healthy stock of \$7,687 million held in 1982.

Operations of the Central Bank itself suffered from the continuing economic downturn with assets and liabilities declining by 24 per cent to \$4,124.9 million in 1984.

Deposits of commercial banks to the Central Bank fell by \$155 million while deposits by non-bank financial institutions dropped by \$16.7 million.

The decline was more rapid in the "other deposits" sector comprising mainly Government deposits which were reduced by \$1,045 million "as Government financed the greater part of its fiscal deficit by drawing down its cash balances at the Bank."

Other blows to the Central Bank:

--Its external assets (accounting for over 80 per cent of its total assets) declined by 27 per cent or \$1,190 million.

--Income in 1984 totalled \$505 million which was \$127 million less than in 1983.

--Net surplus fell from \$275 million in 1983 to \$176.1 million last year.

In its review of the economy, the report noted that the decline in the GDP took place in spite of a sharp turn around in the petroleum sector and "the strong performance of the petro-chemicals sub-sector, which increased by 9.2 per cent."

Real value productivity in the non-oil sector (with electricity and water being the exception) contracted sharply in 1984 by 9.2 per cent compared with minus 4.9 per cent in 1983 and "overall performance of the economy worsened."

The wide-spread bad performance in the non-oil sector was most pronounced in distribution (minus 18.1 per cent), construction (minus 13.5 per cent), transport, storage and communication (minus 12 per cent) and manufacturing (minus 8.6 per cent).

The iron and steel products sector declined markedly in 1984 with total output amounting to 572.6 thousand tonnes, 15 per cent less than in 1983.

According to the report, since 1981, the terms of trade "of Trinidad and Tobago have deteriorated and have entailed a consequential reduction of the community's real income.

"This reduction has required the economy to effect necessary adjustments so that internal balance may be achieved." Restoration of internal balance involved containment and reduction of fiscal deficit, reduction or rate of credit expansion and establishment of a more appropriate set of domestic relative prices.

On the external side, strategies take in:

--Curtailment and reduction of import of goods and services to levels consistent with the nation's lower capacity to import.

--Encouragement of capital inflows.

--Controlled loss of accumulated reserves in order to attain sustainable balance of payments and reserves position within a reasonable time frame.

CSO: 3298/708

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BUSINESSMEN WILL ACCOMPANY CHAMBERS ON TRIP ABROAD

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 May 85 p 1

[Text] SEVERAL businessmen are expected to be in the party when Prime Minister George Chambers makes an extensive tour of the Far East and London later this year.

Official sources could not confirm this yesterday, but a business source told the "Guardian."

"During his recent meeting with businessmen it was indicated that they would like to see representatives of the business community in the party.

"This, I believe, highlights the idea that the trip would be one to generate trade between Trinidad and Tobago and the countries he will be visiting.

"This question of trade is a crucial one as we have to get business for our steel plant at Point Lisas and the urea facility, in addition to joint venture discussions and a heavy push for exports."

The source said Mr. Chambers will be visiting countries such as China, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

It was reported that he would proceed on the long trip immediately after the Caricom Heads of Government meeting in Barbados in July.

According to another source the itinerary of the tour has not yet been worked out, "but it is being worked on at this moment and in due course it will be announced."

Because of the nature of the tour Government ministers like Senator Wendell Mottley (Industry and Commerce); Patrick Manning (Energy and Natural Resources) and Ronald Williams (State Enterprises) may be on the team, together with External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir.

Businessmen who are going would be paying their way, according to the source.

The official party was estimated to be 15 persons.

The Prime Minister has been meeting informally with businessmen, the latest being last Saturday, at the home of Taran Seegobin, Managing Director of Trade Confirmers Limited.

According to a source, it seemed that a new type of economic policy was emerging from Government--moving away from the "rigid policy" pursued in the past.

Businessmen attending Saturday's private affair were asked to prepare memoranda on tax reform, investment policy, fiscal incentives to the producing sector, state administration, state enterprises and labour practices.

The informal meeting, the source said, could be described as a mild form of a "think tank."

Establishment of a Science Park as announced in the 1985 Budget would also be pursued during the visit, it was stated.

CSO: 3298/708

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CRIME BRINGS PUBLIC OUTCRY, CALL FOR ARMY ASSISTANCE

Complaints to Padmore

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 May 85 p 1

[Text] SMOKING of marijuana, snorting of cocaine, the general sale of narcotics, armed robberies, gambling, whe whe playing, vandalism and molesting of school girls were some of the many complaints by residents of Malick and the Barataria housing area to National Security Minister, Mr. Overand Padmore, yesterday.

Mr. Padmore was making a tour of the Morvant, Barataria, San Juan and St. Joseph areas, stopping off at the various police stations and the Barataria Community Centre.

He had with him Government Ministers Kamaluddin Mohammed and Mrs. Muriel Donawa-McDavidson, Permanent Secretary Leo Seebaran of the Ministry of National Security, and Rep. Mr. Sham Mohammed (St. Joseph) and acting Police Commissioner Clive Sealey.

Mr. Padmore, after hearing the complaints, said he hoped that the representatives of the various community groups present would report back to their bodies the substance of yesterday's meeting.

He said he had the police officers with him so that they could get a picture of what was needed by the people.

He gave the assurance that he would spare no effort to meet the legitimate concerns of the community without, in the process, seeking to convert the country into a police state.

Call for Use of Troops

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 85 p 56

[Text] THE South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce has called on Government to use soldiers to supplement the Police Force in a bid to stem the upsurge of crime in the country.

In a statement issued yesterday, Chamber President Hedwidge Bereaux urged the immediate increase in the presence of uniformed police and police patrols on a 24-hour basis on the streets of the nation. Said Bereaux: "These patrols must not be limited to the city and highways. They should always encompass development and villages." The Chamber called for a revision of the law relating to narcotics.

Said Bereaux: "The Chamber believes that if this country is to remain safe so that law-abiding citizens and visitors can conduct their business without fear, then Government must, as a matter of urgency, launch an immediate campaign to stamp out lawlessness in our society. The offensive against crime must be mounted on all fronts. The entire nation must be mobilised in the fight against criminal activity."

Bereaux called for a media blitz that would incorporate an education programme aimed at underscoring the fact that criminal activity was an outrage against society and not just the victim. The blitz would also include precautions to be adopted by members of the public for their safety.

Bereaux said the police should respond promptly to all reports of suspected criminal activity. The Chamber leader said that there should be stricter immigration control and monitoring designed to detect and prevent the continued presence of illegal immigrants in the country.

Bereaux said that magistrates and judges should consider seriously the possibility of an accused committing other crimes while on bail before actually granting bail. Bereaux said an effort must be made to stop the trafficking and use of illegal drugs.

CSO: 3298/708

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BUSINESS GROUP COMES OUT AGAINST NATIONAL SERVICE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 May 85 p 16

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text] THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce is of the view that a system of national service is neither possible, practical nor affordable by this country.

The Chamber was invited to comment on a system of National Service for Trinidad and Tobago by the committee appointed by Government to investigate the possibilities of such a service.

In its response to the invitation, the Chamber said that it lacked specific information on the type of National Service envisaged and the objectives. Its comment, therefore, was confined to various forms of such service as it applied in other countries.

The Chamber presented the view that any form of National Service where military conscription was concerned, would be contrary to the nation's principles and aspirations.

Drawing attention to the fact that the last vestige of militarism is only present in Switzerland (where compulsory military service maintains a citizen army to defend that country's neutrality), the Chamber in its comment stated:

"We cannot imagine that our peace-loving nation with no overt external adversaries could desire or need a system of national military service. Our Government's position of non-interference in other nation's affairs was strongly stated during the invasion of Grenada by the US Armed Forces, assisted by Caribbean elements."

Compulsory military services according to the Chamber has now been abandoned by all Western nations, including the US which reintroduced it during the Viet Nam era and did away with it mainly because of its political unpopularity.

The Chamber is of the view that Trinidad and Tobago does not have the resources to embark on a system of national service. The Chamber sees the Kibbutz of Israel as "an organisation that fires the imagination of most would-be organisers of national service."

The statement also makes mention of the fact that all the co-operatives established in Grenada by the Bishop Government have been failures and incurred losses of millions of dollars.

Generally, the Chamber feels post-school pre-work age groups would be most vulnerable for any National Service programme. It warns that in a country with falling expectations and rising unemployment, it would be necessary to pay these young people for the time they spend in a National Service.

The Chamber pointed out that "this is likely to create a junior DEWD mentality and give to a generation of youth expecting to live permanently on Government handouts.

In any eventuality, according to the statement, organisations which foster national loyalty and dedication to hard work and a moral code already exist. Among these are the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Movement, Servol Life Centres, Junior Achievement (for those inclined to business) and the Cadet Corps (for others with a military beat).

CSO: 3298/708

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNION EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER FUTURE OF OIL INDUSTRY

'Reminder' to Chambers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 May 85 p 7

[Excerpt] SAN FERNANDO: OILFIELDS WORKERS' TRADE UNION (OWTU), through president general George Weeks [sic] yesterday sent a letter to Prime Minister George Chambers, reminding him of "certain facts" relating to the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc).

The union also posed certain questions and made suggestions aimed at resolving problems confronting the operations of the expanded enterprise.

Mr Weeks said that details of the letter will be released shortly but he confirmed that it was related to operations of Trintoc generally.

Referring to tomorrow's demonstration by members of the union and oil workers in particular, he said that "it is for a better and more productive and efficient oil industry."

Job Security

He went on: "It is also for the future direction of the oil industry, a just and speedy and peaceful settlement of the wage negotiations for oilworkers, a speedy implementation of the new Board and management structure, and for effecting a policy that will see the national oil company grow and develop."

The demonstration will also be for job security, safety and health.

Meanwhile, executive officers of the union believe that the time has come for the appointment of the new Trintoc Board.

Mr David Abdullah, research officer of the union, told Trintoc employees on Wednesday at the union's Point Fortin branch hall that at the moment the integrated company would not be able to operate successfully because of a lack of policy and programme.

Like other officers, he has issued a call to Government to name and announce the members to serve on the new Board without delay.

Mr Errol McLeod, first vice president of OWTU, who addressed workers at the Point-a-Pierre canteen, spoke of the delay in the settlement of industrial agreements and to the matters with all the oil companies, including Trintoc.

New TRINTOC Board

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 May 85 p 1

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text] DESPITE speculation to the contrary, former High Commissioner to London W. Andrew Rose retained his appointment as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company, in an announcement made yesterday in Parliament.

State Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams announced the newly constituted board, consequent upon the Government's take-over of the majority of assets of the former Texaco Trinidad Inc, and the integration of that company with Trintoc.

The board of the expanded Trintoc now comprises nine new members in a 12-member team which includes this country's permanent representative to the United Nations, two chartered accountants, a management consultant and a solicitor. The full team as announced yesterday is: W. Andrew Rose, chairman; Jack De Lima, present member (business); Walton "Wally" James, present member and managing director, (chemical engineer); Dodderidge Alleyne (economist, Permanent Representative to the United Nations); Dr Norbert Masson (petroleum, mechanical and marine engineer); Nazir Ahamad (mechanical engineer); Michael Mahabir (petroleum engineer); Joseph P. Esau (chartered accountant); Alwin Chow (chartered accountant); Edward Collier (solicitor); Frank A. Barsotti (economist); Clyde James (management consultant).

An extraordinary general meeting had been called for 1.30 on Monday afternoon for the purpose of increasing the maximum number of directors and the election of the directors of the company.

Among the newcomers, chartered accountant Esau was the leader of the team which reviewed and made recommendations on the operations of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago which led to the Government's finding a partner for Iscott. His professional colleague Chow is also a computer systems specialist and an independent member of the Senate.

Barsotti, who is believed to be retiring from service as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, is also secretary of the dormant National Economic Planning Commission and has been one of the Government's chief finance and economics technocrats.

Weekes Letter to Chambers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 85 p 3

[Text] SAN FERNANDO: PRIME MINISTER George Chambers has been told that no proper or meaningful rationalisation and reorganisation of Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) or the oil industry can take place without the active input of oilworkers and their union.

"Indeed, it is only the democratic involvement of oilworkers that can ensure that nepotism, favouritism and corruption do not take place," according to Mr. George Weekes, President General of Oilfields Workers Trade Union, in a letter dated May 14.

Mr. Weekes added: "The sooner we are involved together, the better for all the national interest."

Writing the Prime Minister on behalf of the OWTU General Council, Mr. Weekes referred him to statements he (Mr. Chambers) made at the signing last March 30 for the purchase of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery and certain other assets of Texaco in Trinidad.

Mr. Weekes said that Mr. Chambers correctly stated that: "because of the size and complexity of the new enterprise, an early imperative to the achievement of the organisation would be a good management structure."

The letter added: "Some six weeks have now elapsed from the date of formal signing, two and one half months have gone by since the assets were in fact acquired (the agreement took effect from March 1) and eight and one half months have passed since you first announced on the Anniversary of Independence day 1984 that agreement had been reached 'in principle' with Texaco.

"Yet much to our concern and to the distress of oilworkers, the industry and the country, the uncertainty continues."

Mr. Weekes referred to the delay in appointment of the Board of Directors of the new Trintoc (announcement of the members of the Board was made last Friday in Parliament).

The OWTU leader said: "There is therefore no known clear-cut policy for the management to pursue, whereby the workers will be motivated. Indeed the management itself appears to be confused if not in confusion."

Make It Work

Mr. Weekes posed the following questions to the Prime Minister: "Are you aware of the fact that deep fear, divisions and suspicion, have developed amongst management personnel who held 'comparable' positions in the old Trintoc and the old Texaco?

"Would you be surprised to know that there are certain managers who are agents of Texaco in the ranks of the new Trintoc and who, according to reports reaching us, are creating problems?"

Mr. Chambers was also reminded of what he said at the signing ceremony at which time he reportedly indicated his recognition of the role of oilworkers and their union representatives by honouring them with an invitation for the President General of OWTU to attend the formal ceremony.

Mr. Weekes recalled that he in turn stated: "We will play our part. We can make it work."

The letter added: "We were not privy to the negotiations between Government and Texaco—despite being the most experienced in facing up to the negotiating with Texaco and other foreign oil companies; we do not know the contents of the agreement between Government and Texaco; and we have not been asked to give advice on how the company and the industry should now be reorganised.

Mr. Weekes told the Prime Minister the union's demonstration (held on Saturday) was phase one action in a serious attempt to resolve the crisis in the oil industry.

There was a large turnout at the demonstration through the main streets of San Fernando, highlighting problems in the oil industry and calling for immediate remedial action.

Principal call was for the takeover of the operations of Amoco Trinidad Oil Company. Mr. Weekes, said: "Texaco gone, Amoco to go."

OWTU March

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Excerpt]

HUNDREDS of oil workers marched through the streets of San Fernando last Saturday, demanding what they described as "the tools" to create a productive and effective oil industry.

The march began from the headquarters of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union at Circular Road, San Fernando, one hour after the scheduled time — 9 a.m. The OWTU leader, George Weekes, along with first vice president Errol McLeod, general secretary Edoo Nath and education officer David Abdullah, led the march. A large contingent of policemen followed the procession for the two-mile-long journey.

Weekes told the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk that he was "satisfied with the turn-out." He said the response of the oil workers was a "clear indication that they are not very happy about the present arrangements

in the oil industry." Also part of the demonstration were officials from the Development and Environmental Works Division's National Committee, led by the chairman, Jimmy Singh.

Asked why the DEWD committee decided to join the march, Singh replied: "We are in solidarity with the OWTU. We are committed to supporting workers' struggles and the workers to receive work and justice."

The workers carried placards condemning the slow pace of negotiations at oil companies. The placards also expressed workers' discontent about the fact that they have obtained no wage increases since 1983.

Criticism of TRINTOC Board

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 May 85 p 48

[Text]

OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union (OWTU) first vice president Errol McLeod warned that the exclusion of the OWTU from the board of directors of the expanded state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) was a clear recipe for more confrontation and problems in the oil industry.

The warning was sounded at Saturday's solidarity march organised by the OWTU to press claims for the settlement of outstanding issues facing oil workers in the country. The march ended at the Palms Club where workers were addressed by several leaders of the union.

McLeod told the workers that the OWTU was not surprised but disappointed by the fact that the union was not invited to name a representative on the board. Said McLeod: "We were even more disappointed that not even a representative from the labour movement was invited to sit on that board."

But, said McLeod, the OWTU made a commitment to play its part in the smooth operations of the industry and it was willing still to do so. Said McLeod: "But anybody who is really

serious about the oil industry would understand the part played by the OWTU in seeking to bring the industry under national ownership. We, therefore, feel it is nonsensical that a Trintoc Board was appointed without the inclusion of the OWTU."

Earlier, OWTU leader George Weekes, in an interview with the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk, expressed his disappointment that no labour representative was appointed to the board. Weekes called for the immediate review of the matter and the inclusion of labour representatives. Opposition leader Basdeo Panday also called for the inclusion of labour representatives on the board. He said that the late Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams had indicated his willingness to include worker-representation on the boards of state-owned companies.

The new Trintoc Board is headed by Wilfred Andrew Rose and includes Jack De Lima (business), Walton "Wally" James (managing director, chemical engineer), Dodderidge Alleyne (economist, Permanent Representative to the United Nations), Dr Norbert Masson (petroleum, mechanical and marine engineer), Nazir Ahmad (mechanical engineer), Michael Mahabir (petroleum engineer), Joseph P. Esau (chartered accountant), Alwin Chow (chartered accountant), Edward Collier (solicitor), Frank Barsotti (economist) and Clyde James (management consultant).

CSO: 3298/709

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TESORO PLANS TO DRILL NEW OIL WELLS IN ERIN AREA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 May 85 p 7

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] SAN FERNANDO: TRINIDAD Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited will shortly begin construction of well sites on 156 hectares in the Erin area.

The company is motivated to embark on that exercise following its new oil discovery in the area recently.

The well that brought in the crude is Erin 53, and based on the oil flow which is over 200 barrels a day. It is estimated that there are more than 15 million barrels of recoverable oil in the area.

Mr. Ken Durham, exploration manager of Trinidad-Tesoro, was reported to have said, according to the latest issue of the "Tesoro News", that it is a significant discovery for us. The results were little better than anticipated.

Mr. Durham said that the results of Erin well could prove even better as there were still three additional overlying sands to be perforated and included in the present completion interval. A follow-up well is planned within a few weeks.

Reservoir engineers are studying spacing for dependent wells and productive rates for the entire area.

Mr. Durham said that once studies are completed "we will begin construction of well sites and continuous drilling activity can be expected for a minimum of one or two years, depending on the successful results, to develop the acreage."

When the discovery of the new oil find was made, Mr. J. P. Schmalz, Managing Director, Mr. Durham and Mr. Franklyn Khan, geologist, were among the company's personnel who visited the site.

Trinidad-Tesoro drilled a total footage of 233,786 in 1984, an increase of 12.26 per cent from 1983 footage of 208,246. One hundred and seven development wells and one exploratory one were drilled and completed last year.

The company produced an average of 23,157 barrels of OI per day in 1984. A check revealed that Trinidad Tesoro is one of five oil companies which showed increased production in 1984. The others are Trintoc, Amoco, PCOL and Trinmar.

CSO: 3298/709

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LEADER OF BANK & GENERAL WORKERS UNION STEPPING DOWN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 85 p 12

[Text]

OUTGOING President General of the Bank and General Workers' Union (BGWU), Mr. Michael Als, has said that he is relinquishing the leadership because he saw no reason to hold on to office and power "just for the sake of it."

In his letter of resignation to the union's General Secretary, Mr. Als states: "Such a thing is repugnant to me and always has been."

He explained in the letter, dated Friday, March 22 that he decided to resign from the post because he believed he had given all that he could to the organisation. He was satisfied that BGWU was in a stable position in spite of the general crisis in the country.

"The officer corps of the union, though young, are among the most competent technicians in the field and have shown capacity, ability and commitment."

"To add to this, our union has never had the slightest taint of suspi-

cion, underhandedness, corruption or a single charge by any worker or group of workers, of selling out their interests.

"As you are well aware, we have a very united union without sections or groups biting at each other. In this area the unity of our union has been most outstanding, a hallmark admired and respected by the entire working class, and even our enemies both inside and outside the country."

He conceded that there were somethings still to be achieved by

the union including establishment of new headquarters and covering all areas of union recognition.

"In the circumstances, therefore "I do not believe I have much more to add to the building of this magnificent organisation and I do not see the reason to hold on to office and power just for the sake of it."

Mr. Als said he would continue to help the union. His resignation will take effect at the end of July. His last official duty will be an address to the BGWU's biennial conference of delegates on June 8 and 9 at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

CSO: 3298/710

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DEWD WORKERS IN DEMONSTRATION; THREE ARE ARRESTED

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 85 p 1

[Article by Irma Rambaran]

[Text]

THE dispute over the employment of workers in the Development and Environmental Works Division turned violent yesterday as three workers, including the chairman of the DEWD Workers National Committee, Jimmy Singh, were arrested during a demonstration outside Whitehall.

Singh, 34, of Erica Street, Laventille, along with Rupert Carrington, 35, and Gabriel Carrington, 37, both of El Reposo Road, Sangre Grande, were arrested shortly before 11 a.m. during a demonstration calling for permanent employment in DEWD.

They were charged with possession of a noisy instrument, obstruction and using obscene language. The three appeared before Justice of the Peace Ramnarine Ramroop and were released on their own bail. They will appear in the Port of Spain Magistrates Third Court on Thursday, May 23.

Charges were laid by Superintendent Woodley while Karl Hudson-Phillips and Stanley John appeared for the workers for the application of bail.

A release from the committee late yesterday stated that there would be a demonstration around the Red House during today's sitting of Parliament.

Scores of workers gathered outside the Magistrates Courts on St Vincent Street as word spread that the arrested workers would appear before a Justice of the Peace. They chanted "We not giving up until we settle" and when the arrested men failed to show up after 3 p.m. the chant changed to "Whole day, whole night, until we settle."

Lawyers Hudson-Phillips and John were cheered as they entered the court and shortly afterwards Singh and the Carrington brothers arrived in a police jeep accompanied by a number of officers from the Tactical Unit.

From 9 a.m. workers, including some from Arima, Sangre Grande, Caroni and Princes Town, gathered outside Whitehall where Cabinet was holding its weekly meeting.

The workers said Cabinet was expected to discuss a proposal for the employment of all workers in the

division and the demonstration was aimed at making their presence felt.

The proposal called for the inclusion of \$31 million allocated to DEWD last year, which the workers said had not been used, to the \$75 million allocated for wages for the rest of the year.

They said this would enable the 7,500 regular and casual workers to obtain employment for 15 fortnights ending on December 7.

However, up to press time, it could not be determined whether the proposal was discussed at the Cabinet meeting.

The proposal was worked out by the National Union of Government and Federated Workers, the Planning Unit of the Ministry of Works and the DEWD Workers Committee, but up to yesterday they were still unable to arrive at a final decision based on the \$75 million wage allocation.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BANKERS COMMENT ON DECISION OPENING DOOR TO ARAB BANK

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 May 85 p 1

[Article by Davan Maharaj]

[Text]

THE entry of an Arab-owned bank in the country has brought "no fear" to local bankers but the move clearly demonstrates a reversal of the Government's policy on ownership of banks and foreign investments.

This was the consensus of most of the country's leading bankers when asked to comment on an exclusive EXPRESS report that the Arab-owned Bank of Credit and Commerce International has been granted a licence to operate in the country. BCCI will acquire the entire shareholding of the troubled Southern Finance Limited. The acquisition follows the inability of the finance house to repay investors' deposits which have matured over the past two years.

"We have no qualms about their entry into the country," Royal Bank chairman and managing director Herman P. Urich told the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk yesterday. "As a matter of fact, we relish competition and if it means sharpening our pencils, then that is all right."

Urich pointed out that BCCI, which controls assets worth \$14 billion (U.S.), was bigger than both Royal and Republic banks, the country's two largest banks. But he said the size would not make any difference because BCCI would be investing limited funds in the country.

Questioned further, Urich said, "what is interesting is if the Government would put pressure on them to localise the operations. It certainly would be a shift in policy because as far as I can remember the two American banks (Chase and Citi banks) were given ultimatums by the late prime minister to ensure that the majority of its shares reached local investors."

Noting that the Government owned the Merchant Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Urich also said it was obvious that the Government had to make some trade off and share the Merchant Bank market in order to get BCCI to bail Southern Finance.

Nova Scotia's Managing Director Ronnie Chan said the move to bring in BCCI would help the finance house to "get back on its feet." He said his bank was not afraid of competition, adding that "we always learn from this."

He said: "My concern could be that you have a foreign bank coming in with a wholly owned asset and it seems to be a change from that policy which was applied earlier."

But Chan added that the problems facing finance houses dictated the new kind of policy. He said: "A lot of people have been saying that we need an injection of foreign capital if we are to reverse the present trend and get the country going again. Changing economic times have brought about changes in thinking and we expect these changes to continue."

Reginald Snelgrove, deputy managing director of the Bank of Commerce, said he did not see BCCI's entry "as anything other than helpful to the overall economy of the country." Sharing the view

that the competition would be healthy, Snelgrove said the move would also restore some confidence in the non-banking sector. "I would say that possibly it is a shift in government's policy of ownership. But it is a signal that the Government is more open in policy measures and it is encouraging outsiders to invest both in banking and manufacturing," he said.

National Commercial Bank Chairman and Managing Director Philip Rochford said that BCCI entry into the country is a moral booster. He said: "Anything that will strengthen the financial houses and protect depositors must be a good thing.

Rochford said NCB had dealings with BCCI which has had a phenomenal growth since 1972. Rochford said he did not know whether the move reflected a change in government's policy, adding, however, that the bank's international expertise and its aggressiveness would certainly be beneficial to Trinidad.

Neil Rolingson, marketing economist at Republic Bank, said he too saw no real problem in BCCI's entry into the country.

CSO: 3298/710

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES--THERE was a significant increase in the number of unemployed people in this country during the latter half of last year. Data for the period July to December show a decline of about 8,000 in the number of persons with jobs and an increase of about 5,700 in the number of unemployed. Employment among females declined by 5,000 during the period under review. Among males the figure was 2,900. The overall unemployment rate for the country moved from 13 per cent during the first half of last year to 14 per cent for the latter half. Labour force participation rates were 83 per cent for males, 40 per cent for females and a general labour force participation rate of 61 per cent--a one per cent decrease. Unemployment was highest in Victoria and St Patrick where it stood at 17 per cent. St Andrew/St David followed with a rate of 16 per cent. Caroni's unemployment figure stood at 15 per cent. The total labour force was put at 468,500 with 66,000 unemployed.
[Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 May 85 p 3]

CSO: 3298/710

TURKS & CAICOS

NEW ADMINISTRATION DIGGING IN, SETTING POLICY GOALS

Activities of New Leaders

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 4 Apr 85 pp 1, 3

[Text] THE NEW administration of Chief Minister Nathaniel Francis was settling down to work this week after the first meeting of the Executive Council since the arrest of former chief minister Norman Saunders and his two colleagues a month ago.

Mr. Francis was "still finding his way about" his new office, which was still arranged as Mr. Saunders had left it with all his personal possessions and pictures.

The new Chief Minister told the *News* that his immediate priorities were to promote the development projects that were "on stream," as well as those in the pipeline, and said that in this respect he was very happy to have a person as competent as Mr. Ariel Misick as Minister for Commerce, Development and Tourism.

Mr. Misick was for his part also busy in his new office bringing himself up to date on matters in hand in his new ministry. Until he had finished doing this, he said, he

would not be able to comment on any particular development project.

As far as the commerce sector was concerned, however, he would be seeking to continue the growth in offshore operations and do all that was necessary to give the Islands the good reputation that was necessary for the long-term success of such an industry.

Mr. Misick, who was previously chairman of the Tourist Board, has been given tourism as an additional portfolio. He said the government had plans to boost tourist arrivals in the forthcoming year and beyond by improving marketing strategy, reorganising the tourist office in Miami and issuing new publicity

materials.

He said he would like to get away from the "Where on Earth are the Turks and Caicos" image and that he had in mind some new and exciting ideas to promote the Islands.

Asked about how his new responsibilities would affect his law practice, he explained that he would remain a partner in the firm — Misick and Cooke — but would not be involved in it very much any more.

Meanwhile, the new minister for Public Works, Utilities, Labour and Fisheries, Alden Durham, was still making arrangements to transfer himself from South Caicos to Grand Turk and had not moved into his office when contacted last Friday.

The lobster season in South Caicos closed last Sunday and the people of the island, who are already facing a slump in the industry, will be looking to Mr. Durham to come up with some new ideas to revive the industry.

"We have a problem in fisheries with poachers from Santo Domingo and Central America and also with local people who take lobsters in the closed season," he said.

"We are trying to get a fisheries protection vessel to cope with the problem," he added. There was also the problem of fishermen using bleach on the reefs.

Mr. Durham was planning to come to Grand Turk this week, and an early priority will be to find somewhere to stay. His family were still deciding whether to join him in Grand Turk or stay in South Caicos.

Meanwhile, it was business almost as usual for the new Deputy Chief Minister Robert Hall, who retains his post as Minister for Health, Welfare and Education and did not have to make any adjustments in his working arrangements.

Action Priorities

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 4 Apr 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

AFTER several issues in which the front page has had to be devoted largely to news dismaying to anyone sincerely concerned about these Islands, it is good to be able today to strike a positive note with the news of progress on big projects which augur well for the future of the Turks and Caicos.

In his first interview, Chief Minister Francis was able to announce what appears to be significant progress on the two large-scale hotel projects for Providenciales and was able to be optimistic about the aragonite mining project off West Caicos. The Sheraton and Hyatt hotel plans and the aragonite project have been in prospect for varying lengths of time, and good news about them is welcome now.

It goes without saying (though perhaps we had better say it) that we wish the new Executive Council all success in the governmental task they have assumed. The trauma that stunned the Islands over the past month is not yet behind us, but hopefully the worst is, and the Francis administration has to get back to the familiar problems which were pushed into the shadows by the arrests in Miami.

One problem which absolutely begs for action is the need to get some development moving on the capital island of Grand Turk, to shatter the inertia which seems to beset the island. The weary, neglected look of much of the island was portrayed in word and picture by the media drawn to the Islands by their sudden, unsought fame — and their cameras unerringly pointed out the contrast between the shacks in which some of our Islanders live and the lavish home recently completed for ex-Chief Minister Saunders. Just as startling and unwelcome is the contrast between a Grand Turk languishing for investment and promotion and a booming Provo — though that island has its unfortunate contrasts.

An important part of Chief Minister Francis's job must be to obtain a more sympathetic hearing in London and Washington for our pleas for developmental help. There is surely a good case to be made for both the U.K. and the U.S. to recognise a spe-

cial responsibility to help in repairing the damage to the Islands' economy of the recent adverse publicity. Specifically, perhaps now the U.S. may be better disposed to find some productive use for Grand Turk's two former bases, thereby relieving the unemployment problems their closing created.

We are happy that tourism has been added to the Commerce and Development portfolio, so that Mr. Misick will be able to continue work he had started as chairman of the tourist board. This is an area of absolutely vital importance to our future, yet past efforts seem for some reason to have been weak and ineffective. Though cut short by events at home, we hope Mr. Misick's recent trip to a tourism convention in Europe will bear fruit, and we urge him to make appointment of an experienced director of tourism his top priority in the drive to boost tourism.

As the other new member of ExCo, Mr. Durham takes on the wide-ranging duties previously held by Mr. Francis. Coming from South Caicos, he does not need to be reminded that fisheries — a second subject now separated from the Chief Minister's portfolio — is an area that needs his close attention, and action. Another hot potato he has to handle is the collection of the outstanding power bills, and we hope that as one with accounting experience Mr. Durham will apply a businesslike approach to this problem and take it out of the political murk which has clouded it.

Though, like his two new colleagues on ExCo, Mr. Hall is less than half the new Chief Minister's age he has nearly five years of ministerial experience, and on that ground is rightfully named as Mr. Francis's deputy. (What this does to any subsequent contest for the top job remains to be seen.) He retains his responsibility for health, education and welfare — and under all three headings we urge him to see that something is done in the case of the three-blind brothers in Provo, whose case has been largely obscured by the governmental crisis. While we cannot control unpleasant news from abroad, we ought to make sure that we take action about scandals at home.

Focus on Providenciales

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 11 Apr 85 pp 1, 5

[Text]

CHIEF Minister Nathaniel "Bops" Francis says his government is determined to devote more attention to Providenciales than formerly and that both he and his ministers will be making frequent visits to the island from now on.

Mr. Francis was speaking to the *News* on his return from a two-day visit to Provo with Commerce, Development and Tourism Minister Ariel Misick.

"It is the intention of this government to have Provo brought more under the influence of the seat of government," he said, adding that he would like to see the foundations laid for a permanent government presence there by the end of this government's term of office.

A sub-treasurer would be taking up his post on Provo soon and Mr. Francis hoped that eventually a Deputy Chief Secretary would be appointed. He was also looking for an upgrading of the islands' police presence and educational system.

At the moment, Provo has no high school but Education Minister Robert Hall has told the *News* that contracts for building a school should be awarded by the end of the year.

"The main problem has been finance. The British Development Division has given

a commitment to financing the physical development of the school buildings but it's up to us to shoulder the recurrent cost, and that has been difficult for us to do," Mr. Hall said.

Mr. Francis explained that the purpose of his visit was to introduce himself to the people of Providenciales and North Caicos as their new Chief Minister. His two priorities for Providenciales were to encourage development and curb illegal immigration.

No statistics were available for the exact number of illegal immigrants on Providenciales, Mr. Francis said, but it should not be assumed that the government was only concerned about Haitian immigrants.

There was, for instance, quite a problem with people coming in from the United States as tourists and then setting up in business in competition with local people. "The government is determined to tackle the problem with vigour," he said.

CSO: 3298/711

TURKS & CAICOS

LEADER OF NEW UNITED PARTY REVIEWS GROUP'S AIMS

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 11 Apr 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] **LEON SMITH**, the moving force behind the new Turks and Caicos United Party, says he believes the PNP government has been disgraced and should resign. Most Turks Islanders in the Bahamas are of the same opinion, he says.

Mr. Smith, an Islander in legal practice in Nassau, was meeting with prospective investors in Miami last weekend. He plans to hold the first general meeting of the party in Grand Turk later this month.

He was not willing to release the names of the party's supporters as yet but these are known to include Tina Fenimore, owner of the Kittina Hotel, and Glen Clarke, of Dot's Food Fare, Grand Turk.

The party was open to anyone in the Turks and Caicos, Mr. Smith said, and the party as a whole would decide who they would have as leader. He added that the party would welcome anyone provided they were willing to uphold morality and the platform of the party. This included members of the present government or opposition who might have become dissatisfied with their political associations.

"As soon as I get to the Islands I will have talks with people from both sides who are dissatisfied," he said.

The party platform was basically right-wing, Mr. Smith said, and was divided

into subject matters — agriculture and fisheries, community development, development planning, economy, education, environment, health, immigration, law and order and tourism. The party's intentions on all these fields had been prepared and were being put into booklet form.

The party had already received a great deal of support in the Bahamas and Florida, Mr. Smith said, and a campaign would be launched in the Turks and Caicos as soon as the groundwork for establishing a party platform was completed, Mr. Smith said.

"We haven't made an impact on the country as yet but this will be made within the next few weeks."

Attempts to elicit reactions to the formation of a third party in the Islands met with a total blank last week when News reporters went out on the streets to ask for comments.

Most people said they had nothing to say, others that they were waiting to see what happened while quite a few were fearful of expressing an opinion lest it affect them in their work or social life.

It remains to be seen whether the party will manage to evoke a more positive reaction once it has presented its platform later this month.

According to the organisers, these are the aims and objectives of the Turks and Caicos United Party:

1. To establish a government which will truly reflect the political, social, cultural and economic aspirations of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
2. To affirm and preserve the principles of democratic government in the Turks and Caicos Islands and put into effect the programme of the party as outlined in its platform.
3. To guarantee the constitutional rights of all Turks and Caicos Islanders, particularly that of free expression in public and private without fear of victimisation.
4. To establish, strengthen and broaden a sound economic base for our country through proper planning and efficient administration, so that both employer and worker will be assured a fair return on their respective contributions.
5. To promote and foster the advancement of all Turks and Caicos Islanders in an atmosphere of equal opportunity.
6. To establish international relations with other nations of the world in order to enhance the quality of life among the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

CSO: 3298/711

URUGUAY

BRIEFS

MARCHESANO DEPARTS AFTER VISIT--Antonio Marchesano, president of the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies, was seen off today at the Jose Marti Airport by Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. During his visit to Cuba the distinguished guest met with Cuban President Fidel Castro and toured areas of economic and social interest. [Text] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 85]

MARCHESANO CONCLUDES VISIT--Shortly before leaving Cuba, Antonio Marchesano, president of the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies, told the Cuban press that in Uruguay there is political spirit and determination to reestablish relations with Cuba. Marchesano left for Mexico where he will visit for a few days. Antonio Marchesano said that a long tradition of friendship has existed between Uruguay and Cuba and that he is sure that these ties will be strengthened in the future. Regarding his trip to Cuba, Marchesano said that he is taking with him a very favorable impression and that although four days are not enough to say that one has seen all there is to see in Cuba, he did witness many of the efforts being made to develop the country in all directions. Marchesano said that he met with Fidel Castro twice and that they discussed Latin American matters, especially the foreign debt and the unbalanced exchange with the developed countries. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 May 85]

SPENDING LIMITS CHANGE--Montevideo, 30 May (AFP) -- Ariel Davrieux, the planning director (who has the rank of minister), today announced that the cabinet has approved a large reduction in the expenditures of the Defense, Interior, and Foreign Affairs Ministries. This has been implemented within the readjustment that is being carried out in the 1985 budget. According to Davrieux, these ministries will reduce their expenditures by 200 percent, while the Education and Health Ministries will increase theirs by 100 percent. The cabinet has also decided that there will be a limit to state investment and that it will only be increased by 60 percent in comparison to 1984. Davrieux also pointed out that in overall terms, official policy is seeking to reduce the fiscal deficit and that this is not directly related, but there is a link to the future renegotiation of the foreign debt (\$5.6 billion) with the IMF. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 30 May 85]

FOREIGN TRADE DELEGATIONS VISIT--Commercial delegations from Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Nigeria have held meetings with Uruguayan Government authorities with the purpose of increasing trade exchange. The Yugoslav and Hungarian representatives have already left Uruguay while the Nigerian representatives will remain until Saturday to continue negotiations through which Uruguay will seek to solve its trade balance deficit with that country, caused by the purchase of Nigerian oil. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 85 PY]

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR--Today Armando Duran, new Venezuelan ambassador to Uruguay presented his credentials to Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 85 PY]

NEW SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT--Nelson Garcia Otero was unanimously elected president of the Supreme Court of Justice today. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 85 PY]

DESIGNATIONS WITHIN NAVY REPORTED--The following officers have been designated to positions within the Navy: Rear Admiral Jorge Laborde as director general of the Navy Training Department; Rear Admiral Jorge Largher as chief of the Navy General Staff; Rear Admiral Jose Imizcoz as director of the Navy Services Department; Captain Walter Ciganda as Navy School Commander; and Captain Pedro Retamoso as commander of the sea forces. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 8 May 85 p 5 PY]

CSO: 3348/708

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